





U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

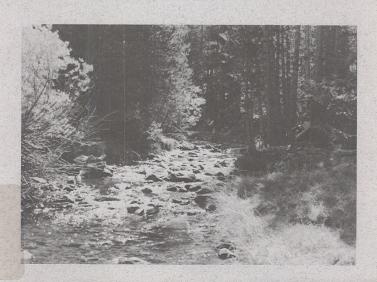
Bakersfield District Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

August 1991



Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

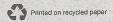
Volume II: Public and Other Agency Involvement, and Appendix 7



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wissest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



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FINAL

BISHOP Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Volume II

August, 1991

State Director, California

United States Department of the Interior Superior Department of Land Management California State Office

Bakersfield District

Bishop Resource Area

¹The USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, is a Cooperating Agency for the transmission line corridor portion of this plan and environmental impact statement.

Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Final

Responsible Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District.

Cooperating Agency: USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, for the utility corridor portion of the plan and environmental impact statement.

Type of Action: Administrative

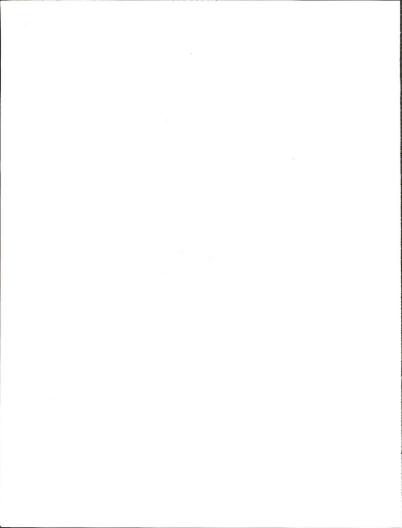
Abstract: The final Bishop Resource Management Plan provides a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the Bishop Resource Area, Bakersfield District, California. The Environmental Impact Statement analyzes four alternative management scenarios (including the proposed action), ranging from an emphasis on consumptive uses to an emphasis on protection of natural values.

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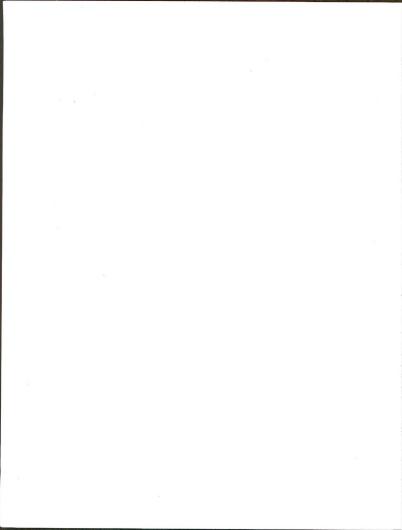
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Chapter 5 Public and Other Agency Involvement



Hikers on Long John Canyon Trail in the Proposed Southern inyo Wilderness.



Chapter 5 Public and Other Agency Involvement

Introduction

This chapter is divided into 3 sections. The first section provides an overview of public participation in the planning process. Section 2 describes public review and distribution of the final RMP/EIS. The last section consists of public comments on the draft RMP/EIS and corresponding Bureau responses.

Overview of the Process

Early Scoping

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) and BLM's planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-1) require early identification of issues. To initiate the planning process, we consulted with federal. state, county and city agencies as well as numerous private organizations and individuals. Key issues to be addressed in the RMP/EIS were identified following these consultations. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the Bishop RMP was published in the Federal Register on June 27, 1988 (page 24,153) and identified six preliminary issues to be analyzed in the EIS. The NOI also stated there would be extensive public involvement during plan development.

Public Scoping Meetings

Public meetings were held in Lone Pine, Bridgeport, Walker, Bishop and Independence, CA In July of 1988 to identify public concerns. Notification was sent to about 650 individuals. Announcements were also made in the local media.

Nlnety-four people attended the public scoping meetings. The results were summarized and sent to all who attended and to those on the

RMP mailing list. The preliminary issues identified in the Notice of Intent were generally confirmed at the meetings. Some new concerns were also identified.

Development of Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are the framework of laws, regulations, and policies within which a plan must be developed. A Notice of Availability of proposed planning criteria for the Bishop RMP was published in the Federal Register in September 1988. Planning guidelines based on public and internal comments were prepared and distributed in April and June of 1989.

Pre-DEIS Public Workshops

After a range of management alternatives were developed, public workshops were held in Bridgeport, Mammoth Lakes, Benton, Bishop and Independence, CA in April 1990 to obtain further public input before publication of the draft RMP/EIS. A letter announcing the workshops and a summary of the alternatives were sent to those on the RMP mailing list. There were several announcements in the media and key contacts were personally notified. Many received detailed advanced briefings. An average of 75 people attended each workshop and much valuable input was received. Several individuals were pleased to have the opportunity to provide input before the draft RMP was published.

Post-DEIS Public Review

The public review period for the draft RMP/EIS was from October 19, 1990, to January 17, 1991. To facilitate review and receive comments, public meetings were held in Independence, Bishop, Bridgeport and Benton in late November and early December. A total of 160 people attended the meetings. About two weeks after the meetings, a letter which

summarized the comments and responded to the concerns was sent to individuals on the RMP mailing list. Over 600 comment letters were also received during the 90 day public review period. Substantive oral and written comments were made on livestock grazing, mining, off-highway vehicles, transmission line corridors, acquisitions and disposals, watershed withdrawals, and many other topics.

Public Review and Distribution of this Final RMP/EIS

The planning process includes an opportunity for individuals to protest any part of the final RMP believed to be in error. Only those persons or organizations who participated in our planning process may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process. Protest criteria and procedures are described in the State Director's letter at the beginning of this document.

This document is being distributed to approximately 850 addresses including the following agencies, organizations, political entities, and libraries. Copies of the complete mailing list are on file at the Bishop Resource Area office.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Alan Cranston Senator John Seymour

Representative Richard Lehman, District 18 Representative William Thomas, District 20

STATE SENATORS

John Garamendi, 5th District Bill Leonard, 25th District

STATE ASSEMBLYMEN

David Knowles, District 7 Norman S. Waters, District 7 (Former) Phillip D. Wyman, District 34

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Air Force Washington, D.C. and Edwards AFB, CA

Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco, CA

Bureau of Land Management Washington, D.C., Riverside, CA and Carson City, NV

Bureau of Mines Washington D.C. and Spokane, WA

Bureau of Reclamation Denver. CO

Department of Energy Washington, D.C.

Environmental Protection Agency Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. CA

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C.

Fish and Wildlife Service Washington, D.C.

Forest Service Washington, D.C., Bridgeport, Bishop, Mammoth Lakes and Lone Pine, CA

Minerals Management Service Washington, D.C.

National Park Service Washington, D.C. and Death Valley, CA

Soil Conservation Service Bishop, CA and Minden, NV

U.S. Geological Survey Reston, Virginia

STATE AGENCIES

California Dept. of Agriculture Sacramento, CA

California Dept. of Fish and Game Bishop, Coleville and Long Beach, CA

California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection Bishop, CA

California Dept. of Parks and Recreation Sacramento, CA

California Dept. of Transportation Bishop, CA

California Division of Oil and Gas Sacramento, CA

California Highway Patrol Bishop, CA

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe, CA

California Resources Agency Sacramento, CA

California State Historic Preservation Office Sacramento. CA

Mono Lake State Reserve Lee Vining, CA

COUNTY AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

Inyo County Board of Supervisors Independence, CA

City of Bishop, City Hall Bishop, CA

Mono County Board of Supervisors Bridgeport, CA

COUNTY AND LOCAL AGENCIES

Bridgeport Public Utilities District Bridgeport, CA Chamber of Commerce Bishop and Bridgeport, CA

City of Bishop Planning Commission Bishop, CA

Inyo County Administrator Independence, CA

Inyo County Planning Department Independence, CA

Inyo County Planning Commission Independence, CA

Inyo County Mining and Natural Resources Committee Bishop, CA

Inyo County Water Department Bishop, CA

Long Valley Fire Department Crowley Lake, CA

Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power Bishop and Los Angeles, CA

Mineral County Commissioner Hawthorne, NV

Mineral County Game Board Hawthorne, NV

Mono County Energy Management Department Mammoth Lakes, CA

Mono County Planning Department Bridgeport, CA

Mono County Resource Conservation District Minden, NV

Mono Wildlife Council Coleville, CA

Nevada Department of Wildlife Fallon, NV

Town of Mammoth Planning Department Mammoth Lakes, CA

INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Big Pine Band of Paiute/Shoshone Indians

Bishop Indian Tribal Council

Bridgeport Paiute Tribe

Fort Independence Tribal Office

Lone Pine Band of Palute/Shoshone Indians

Native American Heritage Commission Sacramento, CA

Owens Valley Band of Paiute/Shoshone Indians

Benton Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Motorcyclist Association Westerville, OH

American Rivers Washington, D.C.

Backcountry Horsemen Bishop, CA

Bishop Fly Rodders Bishop, CA

Bishop Resource Area Range Permittees

Bodie Bogies Snowmobile Club Bridgeport, CA

Bridgeport Gun Club Bridgeport, CA

California Association of 4WD Clubs Riverside, CA

California Farm Bureau Federation Sacramento, CA California Mining Association Sacramento, CA

California Native Plant Society Independence and Lone Pine, CA

California Wilderness Coalition Davis, CA

Cal-Nevada Snowmobile Association Rancho Cordova, CA

Cal-Trout
Mammoth Lakes and San Francisco, CA

Concerned Citizens of Owens Valley Big Pine, CA

California Off Road Vehicle Association Huntington Beach, CA

Defenders of Wildlife Sacramento, CA

Desert Survivors Concord, CA

Eastern Sierra Audubon Society Bishop, CA

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Bishop, CA

High Desert Multiple Use Coalition Ridgecrest, CA

High Sierra Riders Bishop, CA

International Mountain Bicycling Association Bishop, CA

Mono Lake Committee Lee Vining, CA

Natural Resources Defense Council San Francisco, CA Sierra Club Lone Pine, San Francisco and Santa Rosa, CA

SO-CAL OffRoad Club Burbank, CA

Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory Mammoth Lakes, CA

Trust For Public Land San Francisco, CA

LIBRARIES

Inyo County Library Big Pine, Bishop, Independence, and Lone Pine Branches

Mono County Library Bridgeport, Lee Vining, Mammoth, Benton and Coleville Branches

Public Comment on the Draft RMP/EIS

Comment Summary

A total of 639 written comments on the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan were submitted by Individuals, groups and agencies during the public review period. This includes comments submitted at the post-DEIS public meetings.

In general, most comments encouraged more environmental sensitivity toward management of the area's resources. They focused on increased protection of wildlife and fisheries habitats, wilderness values, and visual and cultural resources; minimal development of recreation facilities; and stronger control over consumptive uses. Some comments supported less environmental protection and the continuation of present management. Their primary concern was to maintain broad use and development opportunities as well as have resource management options available

at the activity plan level. Few comments supported the custodial management alternative.

General Responses

Many comments concerned nine major topics which are addressed below. These general responses answer specific comments from numerous letters in a summary format. They are designed to provide a comprehensive overview of each topic.

The Bodie Bowl: Historic Values, Mining and ACEC Designation

One of the primary management goals within the Bodie Hills Management Area is the preservation and protection of cultural resources within the Bodie Bowl. Several RMP decisions have been rewritten to more clearly reflect BLM's goal and intent to protect these resources. These decisions apply only to BLM-managed public lands.

There have been many questions asking why we have made some of these decisions, why not others, and how these decisions will affect the varied resources within the Bowl. Specific questions have dealt with VRM classification. wildlife habitat, mineral withdrawals, ACECs. and NEPA and Section 106 compliance. Some of the questions seem to stem from a misunderstanding of the status and interrelationships of the National Historic Landmark, the State Historic Park, the townsite of Bodie, the Mining Law of 1872, the private lands around Bodie, the laws regulating management of public lands in the area, the decisions in the RMP and potential future mining and mineral exploration activities within the Bodie Bowl

Current and proposed BLM management within the Bowl allows multiple use. All proposed projects must go through the NEPA process and the Section 106 process regarding potential impacts to cultural resources. BLM has a cooperative management agreement with State Parks.

Much of the public land within the Bowl has been claimed under the mining laws. The Mining Law of 1872 and BLM mining regulations give certain rights to holders of valid mining claims. The BLM can and does impose environmental restrictions on mining to protect other resource values. State and local environmental laws also apply. All mining operations regardless of size will be reviewed to ensure compliance with federal and state law, and to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. In 1990, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed with Mono County, implementing California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). Under this agreement, a county-approved reclamation plan must now be submitted to BLM prior to any surface disturbing work of more than one acre, even if covered by a Notice of Intent.

There has been no proposal to mine within the Bodie Bowl. The Bowl contains a mineral resource of an unknown quantity and economic viability, and the primary party involved in the area is still in an exploratory phase with no plans to submit a mining plan in the immediate future.

The Bodie Bowl contains historic resources of national significance. Specific concerns include the Bodie State Historic Park and its primary viewshed, the National Historic Landmark, and other historic resources in the surrounding areas, such as the old railroad grade.

Most of the town of Bodie was acquired by the state in the 1960s. The State Park started out much smaller, but is currently about 530 acres and includes many of the still-standing buildings. The park is managed in a state of arrested decay. There are few developments and no new attractions. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the "ghost town" feel and to wander the surrounding area.

The National Historic Landmark was established in 1961 at 500 acres, but with no boundary delineated or mapped. An early report for the Landmark said that there were over 100 dwellings still standing, as well as about 40 abandoned mines around the town:

and that it was the "finest example of a ghost town in the West." A Bodie Historic District is referenced in the early Landmark report. Mention was made of 34 historic sites and buildings within the District. There is some supposition that the 500 acres of the Landmark overlap the 500 acres of the State Park, but this is not known.

There is a study currently underway by the National Park Service to delineate a boundary for the Landmark. Initial proposals for the boundary include about 2,750 acres of the Bodie Bowl containing the town of Bodie, the Bodie Bluff, and an area to the east (this includes some of the old railroad grade). This is far more than the original 500 acres, and would include about 1.550 acres of BLM land. 550 acres of State Park land, and about 650 acres of private land owned by ranching and mining interests. This proposed area includes all of the major structures (buildings, roads, abandoned mines, dug-outs, etc.) and most of the minor ones associated with mining in the Bodie Bowl. These components in sum make up the "historic landscape" which has been mentioned in the RMP. (BLM is working with the National Park Service on this study, but this action will be taken by the Park Service and is not connected to the RMP.)

With the primary management goal being preservation and protection of the cultural resources in the Bodie Bowl, existing law and regulatory procedures (such as NEPA and the Section 106 process) will continue. Additionally, within this RMP, decisions have been made which will provide further guidance for resource and project management within the Bodie Bowl.

Specific decisions in the final BMP to promote good management of the Bodie Bowl and protect the important cultural resources are designation of the Bodie Bowl as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), with the support need Identified to develop "limits of acceptable change"; the decision to withdraw much of the western portion of the Bowl from mineral entry; the decision that the area will be managed as VFM II with the objective of retaining the existing character of

the landscape; and the decision to employ full fire suppression techniques within the area around the Bodie Bowl.

By establishing an ACEC and defining "limits of acceptable change" which must be met by all proposed projects, we intend to manage the area in a manner which will protect the town of Bodie and the National Historic Landmark. Designating the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC publicly recognizes the importance of the resources within the Bowl and the BLM's intention to manage those resources.

ACEC designation requires that an ACEC Plan be developed to guide management within the ACEC. Under such a plan, "limits of acceptable change" (LACs) will be developed as guidelines and criteria for any projects which might be proposed within the Bowl. Any activity, mining or otherwise, allowed in the area will be required to meet those standards. The LACs will be developed with public input, as well as technical expertise not available in this office. They will address such matters as visual standards, allowable changes to the historic landscape, levels of disturbances to historic resources and structures, noise standards, and limits to vibration from blasting or heavy equipment. These standards will ensure protection of the important cultural resources while leaving open the option of responsible mineral development or other resource management activities, as long as they can be conducted within the LAC criteria. See Appendix 5 for a description of the LAC concept.

Designation as an ACEC will also require that a Plan of Operations be submitted for any mining activity, including exploratory work, within the ACEC.

There have been many concerns raised about the effects of potential mining operations. When and if a mining Plan of Operations is received for the Bodie Bowl, a NEPA document would be completed with full public involvement. The Plan would have to meet the LACs; and the Els would address the many issues raised, including socioeconomics, recreation, cyanide leach ponds and migratory

waterfowl, T & E species and habitat, and potential damage to Bodie and the Landmark. The Section 106 process would also be followed (as it has been for exploratory work in the area), providing for cultural inventory, and allowing for State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) review. Until such a Plan is submitted and an EIS completed, the exact effects of such a project cannot be accurately assessed.

Additionally, any proposed mining operation would be required to prepare a reclamation plan and submit a bond prior to beginning operation. Future use of the site, as well as preservation of the existing values, would be considered.

A mineral withdrawal will be established for much of the western portion of the Bowl within the primary viewshed of the State Park. This area contains most of the high-value historical features of concern to the public. A mineral withdrawal does not affect the valid existing claims in this area. Mineral exploration and development can still proceed. It will only prohibit the filing of any additional claims. Effects of a mineral withdrawal are discussed in more detail in the minerals general response on page 5-14.

A VRM Class II designation has been given to the Bodie Bowl. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. This requires that any proposed project must not attract the attention of the casual observer, and that any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture of that landscape. Any activity proposed would be required to conform to this designation as well as to the LACs.

From the mineral development perspective, there have been numerous questions asking how the RMP decisions will affect the mining interests in and around the Bodie Bowl.

The RMP does not affect a claimant's property rights under the 1872 Mining Law. While mineral ownership is a right under that law, mineral development is a privilege that requires responsible environmental management under FLPMA. Access to and

permission to develop a mining claim does not have to be given if it would cause irreparable damage to cultural resources.

It would be reasonable to assume a higher cost of mining and many other activities within the Bodie Bowl under the management decisions in this document. Whether or not these decisions will prevent development of patented and unpatented mining claims in and around the Bodie Bowl would be addressed in a separate site-specific EIS upon receipt of a Plan of Operations following development of the LACs in the ACFC Plan

By development of a management plan with mandatory standards and guidelines, the goal of protecting the significant cultural values in the Bodie Bowl will be met, while still allowing the opportunity for responsible mineral development and other management activities.

Watershed Withdrawals

The watershed withdrawals encompass 600 000 acres of BLM land in the Bishop Resource Area. These withdrawals were enacted in the early 1930s by three Executive Orders and one Act of Congress. Their underlying purpose was to prevent speculators from homesteading on public land with the sole intent of forcing the City of Los Angeles to buy them out at higher than fair market price. The withdrawals are no longer needed for this purpose because the homestead act was repealed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. BLM policy requires that withdrawals be terminated when they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were established. However, as many comment letters pointed out, revocation of the watershed withdrawals could have some serious adverse effects.

The RMP/EIS has been revised to include a more complete explanation of the watershed withdrawals and the impacts that could result from changes. The proposed RMP decision has also been revised to assure that federal water rights and BLM's "4e" comment authority on hydroelectric projects would not be adversely affected by any change in the

watershed withdrawals. All interested parties, including Inyo and Mono Counties, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, local environmental groups, Native Americans, and others will be involved in the effort to revise the watershed withdrawals following completion of the RMP.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Management

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) management in the long term for the Bishop Resource Area addresses all forms of OHV use. This includes using routes on public lands for activities such as grazing, mining, wooding, nature appreciation, touring, etc. The RMP prescribes that vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails (with some seasonal closures) throughout the resource area (748,700 acres), except for 1,300 acres at Poleta Canyon prescribed as "open" to meet local demand. If the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area is designated as wilderness, 28,200 additional acres will then be closed to vehicle use

Overall, the OHV management focus is to direct user behavior to conform with the area's physical setting. Most resource area lands are classified as a semi-primitive environment. The Bureau would manage OHV use to maintain or enhance this semi-primitive setting. Chapter 3 contains a broad definition of semi-primitive environments for both motorized and nonmotorized areas.

In general, the Bureau would maintain or enhance semi-primitive settings by dispersing users on minimally signed and selected road systems throughout the resource area. Concentrated use and staging areas or associated facilities would be deemphasized. Working together with adjoining land use agencies, the Bureau would direct use on long, destination-oriented touring routes. Designated route systems would be used with very few developed facilities. This approach contrasts with the open area concept, usually a challenge area, where users are concentrated and developed facilities may be provided. Under the semi-primitive concept, viewing the scenery, recognition of the

resource values, and the desire to explore on designated routes comprise the overall experience.

User education, monitoring and protection of the resources are essential to the success of the semi-primitive concept. At the present time, the Bureau has inventoried known roads and trails for about 60% of the resource area. By 1993 the inventory will be complete for the entire resource area. Additionally, the Bureau is completing route designations for all its lands south of State Highway 167 in the activity plan process. The activity plan identifies resource protection and monitoring needs, designates routes for use or nonuse. identifies any needed route connectors, and establishes environmental education initiatives for appropriate behavior in semi-primitive settings. The activity plan also prescribes implementation actions to meet resource condition standards identified in the RMP based on documentation of resource impacts or professional judgement.

OHV management in sensitive areas - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). wetlands, riparian areas, cultural sites, etc. - is generally addressed in the RMP through route designations; resource prescriptions such as desired plant community (DPC) management. seasonal/vearlong protection, etc.; and federal regulation and requirements. Activity plans define the implementation and methodology to accomplish the RMP prescription. For example, the High Desert OHV Project Management Plan, an activity plan begun In 1988, has identified designated routes for closure or maintenance in the Fish Slough ACEC. Other upcoming activity plans will identify routes for use, nonuse or maintenance based on wildlife, visual, recreational and other resource needs.

Vehicle use in Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is regulated under the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP). According to the IMP, vehicles are allowed to travel on existing routes as long as wilderness values are not impaired. If wilderness values are threatened or Impaired, the Bureau will take corrective actions such as

closures. In order to comply with the IMP, OHV management in WSAs would entail close monitoring of casual use. Signs or facilities which might encourage or increase use would not be installed. Maintaining or improving wilderness values would be the primary emphasis.

Removal or elimination of OHVs from all public lands in the resource area is an impractical approach to OHV management, Many people who use OHVs for wooding, trailhead access. camping, hunting, etc., would be deprived of legitimate access. This RMP prescribes a practical and innovative approach to OHV management based on appreciation of the resource. It directs OHV management to serve diverse users of the public lands for different access needs. Our ongoing activity plans are currently designating roads and trails for vehicle use, implementing a baseline monitoring program, and mitigating known resource conflicts. An environmental education program is being developed to emphasize acceptable user behavior in semiprimitive environments. Our experience has shown that this approach benefits the environment and provides a quality experience many public land users seek.

Land Acquisitions and Disposals

The RMP Identifies 9,000 acres of BLM land that might be better suited in private ownership (disposals) and 18,700 acres of private land that might be appropriate for public ownership (acquisitions). Having large acreages of both disposals and acquisitions on the table will enable us to have a flexible land exchange program that can take advantage of exchange opportunities as they arise.

The preferred method of land disposal and acquisition will be land exchange. We cannot force a landowner into an exchange, Inyo County, Mono County, DWP, and the public will have the opportunity to review all land exchange proposals, and will play an important role in deciding whether or not we proceed with specific exchanges. A site-specific Environmental Assessment will be

required for each exchange. Notices of each exchange will be published in the Federal Register and announced in local newspapers. Copies of the environmental assessments for land exchanges will be available to all interested parties.

Our intent is neither a land grab of private lands nor a broad scale disposal of public lands. The disposals and acquisitions should balance out since both will be accomplished with land exchanges. We desire a win/win situation: we can free up isolated tracts for private use, while acquiring key inholdings for public protection under BLM stewardship.

Desired Plant Communities (DPCs)

Desired Plant Community (DPC) definitions describe several important plant communities in healthy condition, capable of supporting a variety of plants and animals. Vegetation objectives are spelled out clearly, while methods to achieve these goals remain flexible. DPC goals were designed within the framework of the Bureau's multiple use philosophy. They do not prohibit other land uses within a DPC area as long as the goals are met. Land uses that conflict with DPC qoals will be modified to meet the goals.

The DPC concept was applied to key vegetation types for which a change in management would likely improve the native plant community or wildlife habitat condition. Vegetation types were selected due to the unique quality of their plants, or their importance to wildlife in a certain location.

The DPCs were developed by the lead wildlife biologist for the resource area. The public provided input on the DPCs at the public meetings and during the comment period, and several suggestions were incorporated into the final plan.

DPC descriptions were based on several factors, including soil type and related vegetation parameters, literature sources describing physical characteristics of Great Basin vegetation communities, a large volume of field data collected throughout the resource

area, and personal knowledge of vegetation structural change in response to management.

Each DPC description focuses on one of three purposes: maintaining current plant composition, increasing vegetation volume and structural complexity, or improving habitat conditions for a particular species or group of species. Current vegetation condition in DPC areas varies. As an example, the vegetation communities for bristlecone/limber pine and sand dune currently meet DPC descriptions and only need maintenance of the existing situation. Other vegetation types will require more management action to meet DPC goals; for example, management to increase the volume and structural character of understory vegetation in an aspen grove.

Factors used to determine the percentage of a vegetation type to be placed under DPCs included total acreage of the vegetation type in a management area; wildlife or fisheries habitat value; current vegetation condition; practical difficulties in carrying out on-the-ground management; and probable short term (20 year) response to management actions. The amount of acreage placed under DPC management is considered to be practical within these constraints. Persons involved in these decisions were members of the resource area staff and the area manager.

Specific sites for DPC application have not been identified. Locations in some management areas (e.g. Coleville, Bridgeport Valley, Bodie Hills) would receive priority due to their overall high value as wildlife and fisheries habitat. Action documents such as Allotment Management Plans, Habitat Management Plans and Coordinated Resource Management Plans are the means by which specific areas will be assigned to DPC management. Within these documents, decisions directly addressing DPC goals could include limitation on mineral exploration and extraction; designation, rerouting, or closure of roads and trails; changes in livestock management practices; exclosure fencing, and other methods.

Monitoring of land uses and resource conditions by Bureau personnel will provide the information needed to ensure that DPC goals are met. A comprehensive monitoring program will be an integral part of any activity plan. The frequency of monitoring, and the methods used, will vary according to vegetation type and management actions. For example, riparian and aspen sites would likely be monitored yearly; pinyon-juniper might be monitored every 3-5 years. Monitoring will incorporate standard accepted methods such as photo points, cross-channel sag tape transects, fixed trend plots, and other physical measurements. While the Bishop Resource Area will focus DPC management and monitoring efforts on the most important areas, traditional range condition class monitoring and reporting will not be neglected.

Impacts of adopting DPC management were estimated by evaluating change from current conditions to conditions expected when DPC goals are met. Factors considered included changes in plant cover, plant blomass, vegetation regeneration, structural diversity, and current and projected use; whether the vegetation type is located on mesic or xeric sites; and, in some instances, best professional judgement.

It was assumed that the greatest potential impacts of DPC management would be to livestock grazing and mineral exploration and development. Impacts to livestock grazing were projected based on the probable methods used to meet DPC goals. Impacts to mineral activity and other land uses were estimated based on the probability and scope of restrictions to those uses.

Impacts to vegetation in DPC areas were estimated based on study sites excluded from all uses in this resource area over several years, probable vegetation changes derived from literature sources, or known plant community quality in other undisturbed sites. These impacts were assessed by evaluating the potential effect of other uses on the specific plant community, e.g., decisions affecting diversion of stream flow, providing yearlong protection to certain vegetation

types, directing changes in livestock forage use, permitting domestic or commercial pinyon tree cutting, and requiring some level of fire suppression.

By adopting the DPCs, the Bishop Resource Area is committing to a necessary change in vegetation management. This is particularly important for some vegetation communities which are potentially the most productive, but currently need improvement. We recognize that, for some vegetation types, DPC management will be more time-consuming and costly than present management. We feel that the anticipated benefits outweigh these costs. The ability to meet DPC goals will be dependent upon adequate funding and manpower.

Grazing

Many comment letters questioned the decision not to include a detailed analysis of livestock grazing in the RMP. In the initial planning stages, the Bishop Resource Area, Bakersfield District, and California State offices determined that grazing decisions analyzed in the Benton-Owens Valley (1981) and Bodie-Coleville (1982) grazing ElSs were still valid and meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This determination was based on review of federal grazing regulations, BLM rangeland monitoring policy, and rangeland inventory and monitoring data collected in the resource area.

Current federal grazing regulations and BLM rangeland monitoring policy provide for adjustments in livestock grazing use when monitoring shows a change is warranted. In the Benton-Owens Valley EIS area, inventory data collected in the early 1980s indicated that adjustments in grazing preference or season of use were needed. These adjustments were made in the mid-1980s and have been validated by monitoring. In the Bodie-Coleville EIS area, inventory and monitoring data collected throughout the 1980s indicate that on most allotments changes in grazing management and development of range improvement projects are the appropriate actions. These changes and projects are

being developed in Allotment Management Plans (AMPs).

As a result, most of the existing livestock grazing decisions are incorporated into this RMP by reference. While there are some decisions in the RMP regarding grazing (for example, allotment status and utilization standards), the RMP does not address stocking levels, season of use, or other details of livestock management. If monitoring shows that resource conditions are not being met, changes in livestock management practices will be made at the activity plan level to achieve those oblectives.

Several commentors mentioned declining range conditions on BLM lands. Range or ecological condition has not shown a general decline in the Bishop Resource Area. Table 3-1 in the final RIMP compares past and present range condition.

In addition, there are some 100,000 acres which have been unallocated to livestock grazing for over 10 years and are trending toward their potential natural condition. These areas will remain unallocated.

The BLM rates the range based on ecological condition, not on forage condition. High seral (good) ecological condition sites have more than 50% of the estimated potential plant community intact, while mid seral (fair) to low seral (poor) sites have less than 50% of the potential plant community intact. Ecological condition is shown in Table 3-7 on p.134 of the draft plan. The percentages of total acres in the resource area are: 45% Good-Excellent; 44% Fair; 11% Poor. It is possible to have a poor condition rating and still have very high forage production, i.e. a seeding.

It is BLM policy to manage grazing allotments according to the forage available on the allotment and according to the other resources within the allotment. Studies have shown that many native grasses, forbs, and shrubs in the arid West can and do withstand grazing. Controlling factors are the degree of use and the time of use.

Monitoring results based on utilization data show that on most allotments, a relatively small percentage of acreage (10-25%) has utilization above the moderate level (40-60% of annual growth grazed). On these same allotments there tends to be a moderate percentage of acreage with slight to no use (0-20% level), with the balance of the acreage in the light to moderate range.

Overgrazing is a problem in certain specific areas; the RMP is designed to improve management of these areas. Unacceptable levels of utilization occur near livestock water sources, in easily accessible forage areas, meadows, riparian areas, aspen groves, and other areas favored or habitually used by livestock. Overutilization results in resource conflicts where these areas are important to other resources (e.g. wildlife, recreation).

Many commentors were particularly concerned with impacts to riparian areas and wildlife habitat. The RIMP addresses these problems with site-specific decisions and with desired plant communities (DPCs), eight of which deal with springs and riparian zones. Solutions to conflicts are handled with AMPs or Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMPs).

The majority of such conflicts have occurred in the Bodie-Coleville ElS area. The Bodie Hills CRMP has been the approach taken to resolve issues and meet resource condition objectives. From 1984 to 1991 five management plans were developed and partially implemented to deal with livestock grazing concerns in this area. Five AMPs remain to be developed.

RMP decisions relative to DPC goals, use limits, Standard Operating Procedures and wildlife habitat improvements will further improve rangeland conditions throughout the Bishop Resource Area. Monitoring efforts will increase to ensure we are moving in the right direction, and will be the basis for decisions regarding changes in livestock management or forace allocation.

Several commentors expressed concern about impacts to the livestock industry. A number of

decisions which would impact livestock grazing have been changed in the final RMP. The decision to encourage conversion from cattle to sheep has been removed, and the decisions excluding livestock from some allotments have been changed; see Chapter 2. The Chapter 4 discussion of impacts to livestock grazing has also been revised to reflect the changed decisions and to provide more specific information.

Minerals

1 - 1872 Mining Law and FLPMA

The BLM is mandated to administer the 1872 Mining Law. Departmental policy (43 CFR 3809.0-6) states:

"...it is the policy of the Department of Interior to encourage the development of Federal mineral resources and reclamation of disturbed lands. Under the mining laws a person has a statutory right...to go upon (unappropriated and unreserved) Federal lands for the purpose of mineral prospecting, exploration, development and extraction. This statutory right carries with it the responsibility to assure that operations include adequate and responsible measures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the Federal lands and to provide for reasonable reclamation..."

FLPMA requires responsible environmental management of mineral development. FLPMA specifically recognizes the Mining Law of 1872 throughout its text and Sec. 302 (b) states "... except as provided ... no provision of this section or any other section of this Act shall in any way amend the Mining Law of 1872 or impair the rights of any locators or claims under that Act, including, but not limited to, rights of ingress and egress." FLPMA directs In its Declaration of Policy that " ... the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 ..."

Subsurface and surface activities are permitted under the preferred alternative if such actions can be mitigated to ensure that other resources are adequately considered.

The management goals and decisions stated in this RMP are general in order to cover all management activities. For this reason, operators of specific projects may feel that the plan is vague regarding their project. Environmental safeguards for specific mining projects will be built into the projects prior to authorization. Part of the authorization process will include NEPA documentation (with public involvement) for each project.

2 - Environmental Restrictions

The environmental restrictions in the RMP will increase mining costs for some projects. The goal of these decisions is to ensure that mining on public lands is done in a responsible manner which protects other important resources, and that the mining projects are adequately reclaimed. Similar restrictions apply to grazing, OHV use, and all other land uses and management actions. We feel most mining can be done in a manner which will mitigate impacts to other resources without making the project uneconomical.

An operator has the right to apply for a patent to a claim at any time. A miner applying for patent must show a valid discovery. With a valid discovery proven, title to the surface and mineral estate must be transferred to the miner, and it would no longer be public land. Regulatory authority would then pass to the county and state, and BLM environmental restrictions would not apply.

3 - Visual Resource Management (VRM)

The impact to mining as a result of implementation of VRM guidelines was addressed in the draft RMP on the basis of the overall percentage of lands affected, rather than the actual acreage of overlap with areas of high mineral potential. Since then, this analysis has been made. In the Bishop Resource Area there are 87,742 acres of high and moderate mineral potential. Of these.

2,809 acres (3%) are in VRM I areas and 29,637 acres (34)% are in VRM II areas.

VRM classifications are standards to describe the type of long-term impacts that BLM will permit in any particular area. They do not automatically preclude mining, since mining is a temporary use of the land, which may be returned to its original condition after the project is terminated. Thus, the VRM classifications will have minimal adverse effect on most mining operations.

4 - Mineral Withdrawals

Mineral withdrawals are an appropriate management tool where a parcel of land has both high mineral potential and a non-mitigatable non-mineral resource which needs to be protected. In such a case, withdrawal may be the best way to ensure this protection. Blanket withdrawals of large areas are not permitted except in the case of Wilderness Areas. Withdrawals must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior and require substantial supporting documentation and rationale.

The withdrawal action prevents the staking and recordation of new claims. If a current claimant submits a Plan of Operations, a validity exam is then completed. If a valid claim can be shown, development may proceed in accordance with federal and state regulations.

A mineral withdrawal also has some effect upon potential development of a claim by freezing the price utilized in analyzing the validity of the claim. As an example, if a withdrawal were put in place now and a deposit were judged to be uneconomical to develop at the current price of gold, then there would be no development later even though the market price of gold might rise. The analysis would be done as of the market price of the commodity on the day of the withdrawal.

5 - Bonding

In 1990 the BLM implemented a new bonding policy. Bonds are now required for all Plans

of Operation (greater than 5 acres disturbance), and for Notices of Intent (less than 5 acres) in cases where operators have a history of non-compliance. Bonding is also required under California's Surface Minling and Re

These bonding requirements are adequate to ensure that degradation is minimized and reclamation plans are thoroughly implemented. A common misconception is that when an operator forfeits a bond, the bonding company is the only loser. A forfeiture has serious consequences for operators and is an action not taken lightly. Once a bond is forfeited, the operator's ability to secure future bonds is eliminated or greatly restricted, potentially putting him out of business.

6 - Undue or Unnecessary

"Undue or unnecessary" is defined in promulgated regulations at 43 CFR 3809.0-5 and 3802 (k). There is no easy way to interpret this term. This RMP gives standards, guidelines and goals defining the condition which various resources should attain.

7 - Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis of impacts to minerals from other resources in alternatives 1 to 4 was made as follows:

It was assumed that future mining projects will be concentrated in old mining districts. Then the high and moderate mineral potentials were determined by mineral occurrence. Deposit quality, quantity, economic viability and development potential are not factors used in the occurrence potential.

Mineral commodities included under the "locatable" heading are gold, silver, lead, dolomite, zinc, copper, platinum, talc and garnet. We recognize that environmental mitigation measures increase mining costs. The statistical comparison between alternatives was made to indicate which alternatives would impact minerals exploration and development the most.

The analysis of the impacts to minerals by other resources was made by analyzing the number of acres of high and moderate mineral potential which are in areas of seasonal protection, yearlong protection, VRM I and VRM II classifications. The results are shown in the table in the minerals impacts section of Chapter 4.

Geothermal

1 - Basis for Development Scenarios

The BLM's geothermal development scenarios are based on "reasonable and foreseeable" energy supply/demand/price projections over the plan life. These are neither worst nor best case scenarios, but most likely. Potentially unstable geopolitical situations do present problems in forecasting scenarios. Worldwide political upheavals could possibly threaten U.S. energy supplies to the degree that geothermal power in the eastern Sierra is viable. However, such disruptions would be catastrophic, and as such, are not reasonable or foreseeable. Rather, we have relied on petroleum industry oil price projections. The plan can be amended if unforeseeable events result in increased demand for new geothermal energy sources in this region.

Given relatively flat oil supply/demand/price curves over the plan life, we foresee little or no interest in geothermal development on public lands within the Bishop Resource Area, Most development will occur on current leases (primarily on Forest Service lands) where lessees have prior existing rights to develop the lease. Development restrictions in the plan would apply only to future leases, and there is currently no industry interest that would lead to renewed lease sales. Moreover, the State of California has expressed no interest in reissuing the prerequisite long term energy contracts. These contracts are necessary because of the marginal economics of this region's geothermal projects.

Most interest for commercial power plant capabilities has been on Forest Service land in the Casa Diablo Hot Springs area near Mammoth Lakes. Travertine Hot Springs are the only springs on BLM land that are of known commercial geothermal potential. The geothermal source associated with these springs is under an existing lease, the development of which will not be affected by proposed leasing prohibitions.

There is no clear indication that geothermal development will occur within the Mono Basin or the Granite Mountain, South Inyo, or Owens Lake Management Areas over the plan life. Bodie Bowl is not classified as high geothermal potential. Historically there has been little or no industry interest in the area, and no current lease applications are pending. We do not expect the Bodie Bowl to be leased over the plan life.

Although leasing may be prohibited in certain areas, pre-lease exploration operations (as defined in 43 CFR 3209.0-5a,b,c) are allowed within areas of high geothermal occurrence potential and most other areas. The discretionary authority of the Secretary to limit lease issuances should not be misconstrued as a leasing "ban." If new and commercially viable geothermal sources are discovered, the RMP may be amended to accommodate leasing.

2 - Proposed Leasing Prohibitions - One Mile Radius

The prohibition of geothermal leasing within one mile of hot springs was based on unknown risks that development may have on local hydrothermal systems and the springs themselves. These decisions have been changed to allow geothermal leasing, regardless of distance, if it will not impact endangered, threatened or candidate species habitat (or, in the Travertine Hot Springs area, the thermal aquifer or surface water source).

3 - Mitigations for Geothermal Development

The BLM has the option of issuing fluid mineral leases with no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations in areas where surface disturbance would threaten other valuable resources. In these cases, the NSO is placed in the lease terms and is known to the

potential lessee before the instrument is signed. Development of the lease would require off-lease drilling and production sites. If the BLM could not allow off-site development as well, then the lease would likely not be issued.

Because of reinjection of produced fluids, subsidence is not generally considered an issue in geothermal operations.

Interagency Transmission Line Corridor Study

1 - Need Analysis

The corridor decision no longer includes designation of an east-west corridor at this time. It does allow for the possibility of a Soldier Canyon corridor in the future. (See Chapter 2.)

Appendix 8 of the draft RMP, the need analysis submitted by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, cited two reasons for a new east-west transmission line corridor designation through the Invo National Forest and Bishop Resource Area portions of Nevada and California: 1) the increasing demand for energy in southern California, and 2) a need to improve system reliability. There are increasingly limited areas where east-west transmission lines can be considered, due to existing and proposed land allocations which preclude such uses. The need analysis cites a growing threat to system reliability created by the addition of new lines to the Boulder/IPP corridor through the Las Vegas area. Because of the significant volume of electricity already being transmitted through that corridor to southern California, a single event that could cause a sudden, unexpected disruption of the corridor's transmission capability has the potential to create a "cascading" effect throughout the western United States' electrical grid system. With each new line added to this corridor, the potential for prolonged disruptions of service to large areas within the grid significantly increases. Technology cannot preclude such events. Networking the transmission of electricity throughout the grid system via corridor

separation prevents the transmission of large volumes of electricity within any one corridor, and is the most prudent means of maintaining system reliability.

Several commentors requested more independent information justifying the need for a new east-west corridor, or for any new powerlines. Applicants for all transmission line projects, even those located within previously designated corridors, will be required to provide information on the need for such projects on federal lands and why they are in the public's best interest. The need for the project, along with the environmental impacts, will be part of the decision whether or not to authorize a project.

2 - Impacts of Corridor Area Designation

Many commentors seemed to assume that the selection of an east-west corridor area alternative would equate to approval of a transmission line project through that area. Although the final decision is not to designate a corridor (see Chapter 2), it may be well to explain that selection of an east-west corridor area as a result of this study would have designated the area only as a "planning corridor." Both the BLM and the Forest Service would have been committed to further evaluating the impacts of a specific corridor alignment within the corridor area. A more site-specific evaluation would be prompted by the first proposal for a transmission line project through the area. The evaluation would require more detailed resource inventories to further identify and evaluate environmental impacts, and measures to mitigate the impacts. Should such an analysis find that transmission line use would cause unacceptable environmental impacts, then the proposal could be denied and use of the area for a transmission line corridor dismissed. However, based upon current resource inventories and estimated impacts, it was anticipated that such an analysis would more likely serve to more specifically identify the resource values, the exact alignment and width of a corridor, and additional measures necessary to mitigate environmental impacts.

3 - Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas

Numerous comments were received concerning environmental impacts which corridor uses would have to lands and resources located east of the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area. Lands and resources within the Ridgecrest and Tonopah Resource Areas were not included in this corridor study. Both Resource Areas were contacted and made aware of the study and both indicated that there were no current or proposed land use designations or known resource values that would necessarily preclude an eastward extension of the corridors we considered. However, specific impacts within those areas would need to be identified and evaluated in a more site-specific corridor study, conducted either as part of each area's land management planning cycle or in response to a project proposal through their lurisdictional areas and the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area.

4 - Impacts of Prolonged Human Exposure to EMF

The RMP does not assume that there are no human health risks associated with prolonged human exposure to high levels of EMF. Page 208 of the draft RMP states that more research is needed before conclusions can be drawn regarding the existence of a cause and effect relationship between high levels of EMF and adverse human health effects. Nearly every study we reviewed suggests the same.

As an interim measure, many studies recommend prudent avoidance of prolonged exposure to high levels of EMF. On p.208 of the draft, the citing of a 300-foot distance from the centerline of high voltage powerlines was in reference to documentation that only within such proximity to major powerlines (500 kV or greater) has monitoring equipment detected EMF levels to be higher than "ambient" levels which most Americans are exposed to daily in the home or workplace. Some monitoring, in fact, suggests this distance to be closer to 200 feet. Consequently, "prudent avoidance" suggests that humans can avoid prolonged exposure to high levels of EMF by keeping

away from areas within 200-300 feet of centerline of high voltage lines.

5 - Convergence of the North-South Corridor at Owens Lake/Olancha

The corridor study identified a potential "bottleneck" along the north-south corridor in the Olancha/Owens Lake area of the Bishop Resource Area. In this area, room for additional powerlines within the corridor will be limited by steep terrain and wilderness land use designations to the west of U.S. Highway 395 and the dry lake bed of Owens Lake east of the highway. An additional "bottleneck" exists outside the study area in the Little Lake vicinity. A cursory analysis was conducted which determined that enough room still exists to accommodate at least one additional line within the corridor. To further address this concern, a condition of the RMP's preferred alternative (p.49 of the draft) requires the first applicant for another line within the north-south corridor to fund a study to identify the impacts of additional lines within it. That study will provide the information necessary to determine the number of additional lines which the north-south corridor will be able to accommodate without causing unacceptable environmental impacts.

Comments and Responses

Of the many comment letters we received, 172 are reprinted here. Each letter was assigned a reference number (from 1 to 174) for use in responding to comments. Table 5-1 identifies the author and assigned number of all reprinted letters. Specific comments within each letter are referenced by a two-number code (for example, 37-3). The first number refers to the letter; the second number refers to a specific comment within the letter. Bureau responses to public comments are referenced by the same code.

Due to filing errors, a few letters were numbered out of sequence. As a result some numbers have no corresponding letter.

Letters not reprinted are represented by similar letters. For example, Letter 30 represents 318

similar letters that expressed concern about Bodle. Also, many letters included attachments (maps, newspaper clippings, or other references) which are not reproduced to due space limitations and printing costs. All letters and attachments are on file in the area office.

Table 5-1. List of Reprinted Comment Letters.

Number	Commentor	City
1	Letters 1a and 1b represent 83 similar letters on wild and scenic rivers.	
	A list of the authors of those letters appears in Appendix 7.	
2	California Division of Oil & Gas	Sacramento
3	Vincent Yoder	Lone Pine
4	Fred Fulstone, Jr.	Yerington, NV
5	Jan K. Huggans	Bridgeport
6	Nevada State Grazing Board	Carson City, NV
7	R. Fandrich	Bishop
8	Charlotte Johnson	Benton
9	M.R. Rambo and Associates	Las Vegas, NV
10	Lionel R. Tyree	Las Vegas, NV
11	Inyo County Board of Supervisors	Independence
12	Ken Zimmerman	Bellflower
13	Carla R. Scheidlinger	Bishop
14	Donald B. Constans	Big Pine
15	E.N. Anderson	Riverside
16	J.S. Cain Co.	Bridgeport
17	Western Utility Group (John W. Steck)	
18	John Jay Ulloth	Sacramento
19	Robert C. Lukesh, M.D.	Orinda
20	Kile E. Snider	Davis
21	Mary DeDecker	Independence
22	Construction Specialty	Lee Vining
23	Timothy Johnson	Big Pine
24	Dean H. DuVernet	Baywood Park
25	Robert T. Wilke	Newhall
26	Noella Ballenger & Jalien Tulley	La Canada
27	Ruth Morefield	Lone Pine
28	Letters 28a and 28b represent 24 similar letters written in response to	
	a flyer distributed by "Desert Survivors." A list of the authors of	
	those letters appears in Appendix 7.	
29	National Park Service	San Francisco
30	Letters 30a, 30b and 30c represent 318 similar letters that express	
	concern about possible mining at Bodle. A list of the authors of	
	those letters appears in Appendix 7.	
31	Mono County	Bridgeport
32	Bridgeport Indian Reservation	Bridgeport
33	John R. Swanson	Minneapolis, MN
34	U.S. Air Force	Edwards AFB
35	Steven Eigenberg	Piedmont

Table 5-1. List of Reprinted Comment Letters (continued).

Number	Commentor	City
36	Riley & Patricia McRae	San Diego
37	Steven D. Craig	Reno, NV
38	Don Becker	Independence
39	Alan Siraco	Oakland
10	Alan Taylor & Shannon Nelson	Lee Vining
41	Letters 41a and 41b represent 16 similar letters regarding the Mannatt trespass near Independence. A list of the authors of those letters appears in Appendix 7.	250 VIIIIIg
12	No corresponding letter	
13	No corresponding letter	
14	No corresponding letter	
15	California Native Plant Society	Lone Pine
16	L.A. Department of Water and Power	Los Angeles
17	Joseph C. Saulque	Benton
18	Sacramento Audubon Society	Sacramento
19	Marjorie Sill, Sierra Club	Reno, NV
50	Joseph Szewczak	Deep Springs
51	Natural Resources Defense Council	San Francisco
52	F.M. Fulstone Inc.	Smith, NV
3	Quest Geological Consultants	Bishop
4	Morrison & Foerster-Attorneys	San Francisco
5	Dean R. Massey for BCMC	Denver, CO
6	Greg Newbry	Mammoth Lake
7	Tri-Valley PAC	Bishop
8	Mark Johns	Bia Pine
9	Sierra Club Mining Committee	Independence
0	Southern California Edison Co.	S. El Monte
11	Homestake Mining Co.	Sparks, NV
2	Ernest B. Paine, Flying M Ranch	Yerington, NV
3	Thomas D. Price, InterWest	Pendleton, OR
4	Philip Baxter	Independence
5	Henwood Associates, Inc.	Sacramento
6	Barney Mason	Reno, NV
7	Ron Smith	Bishop
8	Inyo-Mono County Farm Bureau	Bishop
9	Stan Have	Independence
0	U.S. Bureau of Mines	Spokane, WA
1	Kathy Barnes	Independence
2	Kris Anderson-Moore	Georgetown
3	Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter	Oakland
4	No corresponding letter	
5	Mark Adrian	San Diego
6	Defenders of Wildlife	Sacramento
7	Polar Equipment Co.	Saratoga
8	Pacific Legal Foundation	Sacramento
9	James Wilson	Bishop
0	Gary & Marianne Morgan	Bishop
1	California Dept. of Parks & Recreation	Sacramento
2	Michael Melin, Windsurf Community	Mammoth Lakes

Table 5-1. List of Reprinted Comment Letters (continued).

Number	Commentor	City
83	Burr Williams	Big Pine
84	L.A. Department of Water and Power (Water System)	Los Angeles
85	California State Park Rangers Assoc.	Sacramento
86	Debby Parker	Lee Vining
37	Mono County Mining Committee	Bridgeport
38	Mono County Board of Supervisors	Bridgeport
39	Alan L. White	San Clemente
90	Invo National Forest	Bishop
91	Tri-Valley Committee	Benton
12	Wilderness Society-CA/NV Region	San Francisco
33	Emilie Strauss	Oakland
94	Kathy Noland	
15	Keith Axelson	Lone Pine
96	Dave Willis	Los Angeles
97		Ashland, OR
98	Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter Desert Survivors	Reno, NV
99		Oakland
100	Scott Kemp	Independence
	Friends of The Inyo	Lone Pine
101	Robert J. Miller	Fremont
102	Greg Firman	San Jose
103	Robert W. Harris	Sacramento
104	Peter Alexander	Alturas
105	Bob Ellis	Oakland
106	Peter Holte	Davis
107	Helen A. Green	Berkeley
108	Stephen Lipinski	Richmond
09	Rosamond Gorham	Big Pine
110	Georgia Young	El Cerrito
11	P. Smith	
12	Fred B. Hulting	Bishop
13	Rose Marie LaPorta	San Rafael
114	Dorothea B. Susman	Lone Pine
115	Mike Schroepfer	Visalia
116	Harold W. Wood, Jr.	Visalia
117	Grace W. Enfield & Norman Weller	Bishop
18	Joseph Suppa	Lee Vining
119	I-M-A Cattlemen's Association	Bishop
120	Cooperative Extension, Univ. of CA	Bishop
121	Phyllis Mottola	Bishop
22	Patricia Holland-Suppa	Lee Vining
23	Tom Noland, Spainhower I Ranch	Lone Pine
24	Roland A, Knapp	Santa Barbara
25	Joseph M. Keating	Placerville
26	Thomas C. Lipp	
27	Harriet Allen	Independence
28	E. Jane Bright	Spring Valley
29	Sierra Interests, Inc.	Independence
30	R.A. Noles	Bishop
30	n.A. NOIS	Bishop

Table 5-1. List of Reprinted Comment Letters (continued).

Number	Commentor	City
131	Floyd Rathbun	Fallon, NV
132	Letter 132 represents 34 similar letters related to wilderness and	
	other issues. A complete list of the authors of those letters	
	appears in Appendix 7.	
133	Mike Sota	San Jose
134	Derham Giuliani	Big Pine
135	Resource Concepts, Inc.	Carson City, NV
136	Joseph M. Keating	Placerville
137	Andrea Lawrence	Bridgeport
138	California Dept. of Conservation	Sacramento
39	High Desert Multiple-Use Coalition	Ridgecrest
140	BLM, Ridgecrest Resource Area	Ridgecrest
141	Sea & Sage Audubon	Santa Ana
142	Hank Levine	Mammoth Lakes
143	Rick Puskar	Bishop
44	D. Bryan Goodell	
145	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	S. Lake Tahoe
46	California Parks & Conservation Assoc.	Sacramento
47	J. Brad Sturdivant	Bridgeport
48	Coeur d'Alene Mines	Coeur d' Alene, II
49	Patrice Davison, CA. Assoc. 4WD	Riverside
150	No corresponding letter	
151	Lynn Berner	Klamath
152	Friends of the River	Sacramento
153	No corresponding letter	Sacramento
54	California Department of Fish & Game	Sacramento
155	Dr. Laurence H. Shoup	Oakland
56	Frank Lortie	Sacramento
57	Mono Lake Committee	Lee Vining
58	Jack Shipley	Bridgeport
59	Eastern Sierra Audubon Society	Bishop
60	Desert Protective Council Inc.	Palm Springs
161	Mary DeDecker	Independence
162	Sierra Pacific Power Co.	Reno, NV
63	Richard Potashin	Bishop
64	Toiyabe National Forest, Bridgeport RD	Bridgeport
65	No corresponding letter	
66	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	San Francisco
67	Sylvia Colton	Bishop
68	American Rivers	Washington D.C.
69	Stephen D. Waskul	Moorpark
70	Rhonda R. Gildersleeve	Bishop
71	Lauren Davis	Lee Vining
72	Coral Suter	Los Angeles
73	David Marquart	Lee Vining
74	Bob Ellis	Oakland

10 Panoramic Way Berkeley, CA 94704 December 12, 1990

Mike Ferguson BLM Bishop Area Manager 787 North Main Street Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Area Manager Ferguson:

I congratulate you on your finding of ten Eastern Sierra streams in Mono and lay Counties as eligible for National Wild and Scenie River status. Please recommend all ten streams for designation and adopt intertin management plans which will protect the values which qualified them for their proposed status until Congress can act on the recom-

If possible acquire land from willing sellers to increase public ownership of the cligible stream segments.

I also ask you to adopt Alternative 3, the most environmentally protective alternative for the Bishop Resource Area.

Thank you for your attention to my point of view.

Sincerely,

CONSTRUCTION E CONSTRUCTION CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICO

cc: Senator Alan Cranston Representative Ron Dellums 1820 Dalehurst Avenue Los Altos, California 94024

December 11, 1990

Nr. Mike Ferguson Bishop Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop. California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

16

The Bureau of Land Hanagement is to be commended for the Wild and Scanic alightility study regarding Virginia Creek, Green Creek, Bog Creek, Rough Creek, Atastra Creek, Not Creek, Not Creek, Fish Slough, Independence Creek, and George Creek. It would like to see all these streams recommended by the Bureau for Wild and Scenic status, and adopt interia management for the recommendation.

I would also urge that land be acquired from willing sellers to increase public ownership of the eligible stream segments.

It is also imperative that Alternative 3 be adopted.

. .

Dorothy Zinky Dorothy Zinky

cc: Pete Wilson Alan Cranston Tom Campbell

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 1 (Wild and Scenic River Letters)

1) Letters 1a and 1b represent 83 similar letters. 81 of the 83 letters urged that we recommend all 10 eligible streams for wild and scenic status. In addition, 41 of the letters complimented our eligibility study, 71 urged adoption of interim management to protect the streams, 71 encouraged the acquisition of private inholdings along the streams from willing sellers and 78 urged adoption of Alternative 3. The authors of the 83 letters are listed in table 5.1.

The RMP only documents the "eligibility" of the ten streams. Studies to determine the potential addition of these streams to the wild and scenic river system will be conducted within about 2 years.

GEORGE DEUKMEJAN, Gavery

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS
1418 BIN STREET, ROOM 1.110
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 55614
(916) 445-5055

THE EEAT MAD 202 AJON

November 15, 1990



Michael Fargueon, Araa Manager U.S. Depertment of the Interior Bureau of Land Managament 787 North Main Streat, Suite P Biehop, California 93514-2498

Dear Mr. Farguson:

The Beartmant of Conservation, Division of 011 and das appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Bishop Resources Menagement Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Although the Division has the superinace in permitting and regulating geotherand development in the State of Californie, we lack the knowledge and experience to comment on the other resources each as wildliffs, range, and recreation, the Californie of the Consent of the Californie of the Calif

The recent activity in the Middle East has caused an impact to the energy supply for the citizane of Celifornia and the nation. Because of the volatila nature in the Middle East and the swar increasing cost of energy, the Division strongly urgas the U.S. Department of the impact to geothermal year Used all four alternatives as to their impact to geothermal year used. The threshy the restriction of possible future integrancive energy.

Geothermal energy mas been proven to be a relatively inexpensive energy source to resident throughout California. However, chaps parery is only issue. The protection of the environment is one of the party of the energy can be an energy source which is clean and rather benign to the environment. Geothermal development, if regulated properly, can environment. Geothermal development, if regulated properly, can convenient the environment.

The Division of 011 and Gas again thanks the Department of the Interior for this opportunity to comment, and requests that serious thought and evaluation take place before any long-term decisions are made restricting the development of geothermal angle.

Sincaraly,

Kobert & Habel

Robert S. Hebsl Geothermal District Engineer RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 2 (Division of Oil & Gas. Sacramento)

Please see general response on geothermal, p.5-15. 2-1)

WRITTEN STATEMENT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

3-2

3-4

3-5

Name (please print) PoBox 330 Date: 11-27-90

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 3 (Vincent Yoder)

- 3-1) The correction has been made.
- 3-2) Your comment regarding the effect of grazing on plant vigor and seed dispersal is a valid point. We appreciate your input and will clarify this point in future analyses.
- 3-3) There are two USFWS candidate species on public land within this management area (<u>Calochortus excavatus</u> C2 and <u>Sidaloea</u> <u>covelli</u> C2). There are two CDF&G listed species located on public land within this management area (<u>Dedeckera eurekensis</u> R and <u>Sidaloea</u> <u>covelli</u> E). Refer to Appendix 6, draft RMP, for common names.
- 3-4) The correct specific epithet (<u>longaeva</u>) for the bristlecone pine has been entered in the final document.
- 3-5) The standard operating procedure under I.C.1. refers to riparian zones (i.e. riparian dependent resources) which are defined on p.229 of the Glossary in the draft. "Sensitive plants," as referred to by the commentor, are inferred in I.C.1. in the draft under the definition of riparian dependent resources. Under standard operating procedure I.C.9 the term 'seare' has been added.

PUBLIC MEZTING December 4, 1990

Praft Blahop Resource Management Plan and Environental Impact Statement
Comments By Fred Fulations. Jr.

As you all know, today there is a terrible attact on Liveatock Grazing on Federal Lands by the preservation extremist. You have heard, "Grazing Free by '93". This is certainly true of this document, The Bishop Resource Management Plan Draft.

I believe that many of the preservation extremiat ideas have worked down into the minds of the preparers of this document. I don't see the name of one permittee, one livestock operator, one miner, one conner ial logger, one agriculture commissioner, one ADC member, or anybody in private business on the List of Preparers. 99% of the preparers are U.S. Government, State, and Fish & Wildlife employees, This is a prejudiced document which favors the birds, fish and deer. We, as livestock operators can't live with it as is. It would be detrimental to the public welfare. There are a lot of erroneous and misleading statements which would eventually lead to the termination of erazing on Federal Lands. Most of the streams are merginal for fisheries. The Resource Area is primarily a migratory area for wildlife. No cover, short of water, and many predators. I don't agree as the plan is suggested but maybe a combination of alternatives and a workable compromise for all parties could be obtained. It is not necessary to eliminate some allotments all together and that you must deprive livestock of areas and have large enclosures to satisfy the wildlife soals. Wildlife needs livestock in order to have a good habitat.

Since food, fiber, housing and minerals are our first necessities of living. We should emphasize that grazing, logging and minerals are of first importance in the Bodie Resource Plan.

- 4-1 1. The objectives for the plan are so unreasonable that livestock would not be able to meet them.
- 4-2 2. We don't need Wild & Scenic Rivers. This would not allow un
- 3. There is no limit to how far the BLM can go in controlling 4-3 livestock, in order to benefit wildlife. We,ss livestock operators can not live with this.

Page 2

PUBLIC MEETING December 4, 1990

Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Inpact Statement

- 4-4 | 4. There are no objectives for woldlife as to numbers.
- 5. The State and U.S. Fish & Wildlife people must take care of
- 4-5 the Wildlife themselves but not at the expense of Livestock Operators.
- 6. This plan is interfering with private property rights, private 4-6 water rights, and our grazing rights.

Uncontrolled wildlife is depleting our resources and destroying property. If we turn everything to wildlife we will become a third rate metion.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 4 (Fred Fulstone, Jr.)

- 4-1) The objectives for the plan were developed so as to be reasonable and obtainable. We believe the objectives can be met with changes in livestock management practice and through the construction of livestock management facilities, without significant changes in overall allocations.
- 4-2) In 1968 the U.S. Congress mandated the Department of Interior to evaluate all river systems for potential inclusion in the wild and scenic river system. This RMP partially fulfills those congressional requirements through an eligibility determination of all river segments in the Resource Area. River segments determined eligible will be studied for potential addition to the wild and scenic river system after the RMP is completed. Any potential or existing resource conflicts with wild and scenic river designation will be evaluated in the upcoming studies. Livestock grazing practices are still permitted under interim management of study rivers as described in Appendix 3, p.257 of the draft RMP.
- 4-3) Both wildlife and livestock will benefit from improved livestock management, i.e. grazing systems and facilities. The plan does not provide unlimited restrictions on livestock to benefit wildlife. We believe we can meet both wildlife and range management condition goals.
- 4-4) The Bureau of Land Management is an agency required, in part, to manage public lands "in a manner that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife' (see Public Law 94-579, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976). The Bureau defers to state wildlife agencies to set goals for wildlife populations.

- 4-5) The Bureau coordinates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in part, by conducting habitat improvement projects to implement recovery plans for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (as amended). The Bureau must also consult with USFWS (under section 7 of the ESA) on any action which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or destruction/modification of its habitat. Actions by the Bureau, in cooperation with the state or other federal agencies, may occasionally affect livestock management operations.
- 4-6) The plan is for the management of public lands and is not intended to interfere with private property rights, private water rights, or grazing rights. It simply describes the resource conditions we want to achieve or maintain on public lands under BLM jurisdiction.

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

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Submitted By:

Heating Location: Bridge St.

Street Address

Bridgeport Ca. 935F,
City State Zip

Jan L. Huggans

5-27

5-1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 5 (Jan K. Huggans)

5-1) Your comments regarding garbage disposal at Bodie and the cost of the RMP have been noted. We will discuss the Park's garbage disposal procedures when we next review our cooperative agreement with them.

WRITTEN STATEMENT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.) 6-1 Date: 15-4-90

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 6 (Secretary to Nevada State Grazing Board)

- The proposed conversion from cattle to sheep has been 6-1) removed from the final RMP.
- Most draft documents contain errors. That is one of the reasons 6-2)for publishing a draft. See response 51-1.

To the BLM Beinowin Bishop. Charifant Vally, 12-3-90. please be advanced that I upose with the Tri-Vally tommiffee on the following:

- The corridor study is inadequate and the descriptions of Montgomery Pass, Queen Valley and North Benton are false and misicading.
- There is no mention of the logical probability that a corridor there would lead to use of our valleys when the north/south corridor is fuil.
- 9- Public opposition should be considered in the decision and included in the rationals.
- We don't consider DWP's word to be legitimate proof of the need 7-4 | for a corridor. - We support the No Action alternative!

In plain words : we do not want any powerlines to go through our area! Surenty R. Fanduck R. Fanduck R. Ber 1330

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 7 (R. Fandrich)

- A number of specific shortcomings relative to the corridor study 7-1) have been pointed out during the comment period. Changes have been made where appropriate.
- Page 49 of the draft plan calls for the first applicant with a 7-2) project proposed within the north-south DC Intertie corridor to conduct a study to determine the corridor's capacity for additional powerlines. Designation of this route as a corridor does not make it more probable that the Benton, Hammil, and Chalfant Valleys will be a logical area for future transmission lines after the DC Intertie corridor has been filled to capacity. If and when there is a need to make such a decision. it will be based upon the overall demand for additional lines within the DC Intertie corridor and that corridor's capacity to accommodate those lines, neither of which have been specifically evaluated as part of this study.
- Only a minority of the public who have been provided the 7-3) opportunity to comment on the draft plan has expressed total opposition to the preferred alternatives for utility corridor designations. All the issues and responses provided by the public, ranging from total opposition to full support, have been considered in making a final decision.
- The corridor decision has been changed; please see p.2-47 for 7-4) the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study, p.5-16.

WRITTEN STATEMENT

	BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEM	ENT PLAN	
	to maka a written statem Plaasa submit it to a BL		ne
Die All sent Die Valley a This area is rouls where	y have a po sea Allerson 35 miles from seaple, who us	wer corredo se the rors heater The	in the
be able to de	our place	Its is me	16
-			
Meating Location: Be		Name (please print) P.O. Plot 924	
Date: 12-6-80	LOUILY	Street Address Benta-, CH 9	
		City State	Zip

RESPONSES TO COMMENT LETTER 8 (Charlotte Johnson)

8-1) Your comments regarding the use of existing power corridors and the need to retain routes of travel have been noted. A concerted effort will be made to place any new transmission lines within existing corridors. Fish Slough Road and the other major routes you are concerned about will remain open. The few closures that will occur in your area will be done through the High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle study.

December 6, 1990

Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street Bishop, CA 93514-2498

Attention: Holden Srink

Dear Mr. Brink

9-1

The following are sy comments pertaining to your Resource Management Plan Study, Special Management Areas. All alternatives are unacceptable, particularly Dog Creek. This creek has between the student students are also perfectly the past, leaving piles of boulders along its longth from the private property on the west and for 2-1/2 miles to the northeast where it enters Virginia Creek. Dog Creek is also crossed by oover and telephone lines, and at all scenic.

Dog Creek is less than a mile from view of Highway 395 and Dunderberg Creek Road, but yet out of view of passers-by. These passers-by have not seen the piles of boulders from past mining activities, on will they see the present mining operations that we plan to conduct, at the same time reclaiming this already damaged surface.

As a note, the Land Use Restrictions, Alternative #2 is acceptable, as is the Land and Minerals, Alternative #1. By receipt of this letter, you are petitioned to please exclude Dog Creek from the eligible list of Wild and Scenic River.

Sincerely.

W. R. Kante

M. R. Rambo and Associates 237 E. Ford Las Vegas, Nevada 89123

MRR:cid

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 9 (M.R. Rambo & Associates)

9-1) The criteria used to identify eligible river study segments in the Wild and Scenic River review process include the free-flowing nature of the river segment and any associated outstandingly remarkable values. Our initial assessment has determined that Dog Creek is a free-flowing river segment. Secondly, the boulder piles or tailings along the creek may have historic resource values associated with the first Anglo settlement in the eastern Sierra. We understand that these tailings may have been reworked subsequent to the Dog Town settlement. During the upcoming Wild and Scenic River studies, we will determine whether the tailings are associated with the area's original settlement. This information as well as an assessment of other resource values along the creek will be incorporated into our final recommendation. Any potential or existing resource conflicts that would result from any future Wild and Scenic River designation will also be considered. In the meantime, existing mining operations are allowed to continue.

December 5, 199D

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514-2498

ATTENTION: HOLDEN BINK

Dear Holden Brink:

My comments on the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

LAND USE RESTRICTIONS
ALTERNATIVE # 2 is OK.

LAND & MINERALS
ALTERNATIVE # 1 is OK.

I SPECIAL MANAGEME

10-1

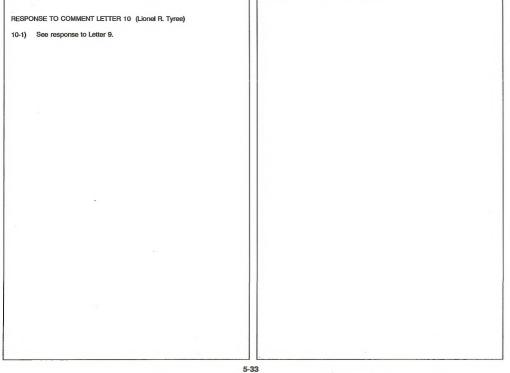
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS ALTERNATIVES 1,2,3, & 4 are unacceptable. Please exclude Dog Creek from your Wild & Scenic River eligilbility list! The mining activites of the past has left piles of boulders along this creek, not very scenic.

We have many active mining claims in this area and plan to remain the damaged surface.

Sincerely

Fine Rype

Lionel R. Tyree I3DI Bracken Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89104



C. BRENT WALLACE Clerk to the Board (619) 878-2411



INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526

January 15, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

SUBJECT: Comments by the County of Inyo on the September, 1990 Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The County of Inyo has had the opportunity to review the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Inyo County would like to offer the following comments:

1. General Comments

Overall, Inyo County feels the preferred alternatives identified in the draft plan applicable to Inyo County are an appropriate balance of the multiple-use madate given the BLM. Critical environment and sensitive species will be protected. Lands are identified for disposal to accommodate industrial development in the County and its communities.

2. Grazing Issues

11-1

The listing of livestock grazing decisions on page 24 of the draft RMP as an issue considered, but dropped from further analysis is misleading. The draft RMP's preferred alternatives include prohibitions on grazing in the Sherwin, Round Valley, Keough, Black Rock and Ash Creek allothents; development of restrictive allothent management plans for other grazing allothents; and a total ban on grazing in the South Invo Management have are represented (see ALMP's) in the County. This does not include grazing exclusion of 75.123 acres in the Southern Invo Management Area

1

BLM grazing allotments in Inyo County were reviewed in the 1981 Benton - Owens Valley Grazing Environmental Impact Statement. At that time many of the subject allotments were restricted (development of Allotment Management Plans (AMPS), limits on AMMS, access to water sources, etc.) for the same reasons they are now proposed of Interest the property of the same than the same of the same

The RMF fails to adequately indicate why each of the subject allotaents is proposed for elimination. At miniams, the draft RMF and EIS should indicate what changed circumstances have occurred since 1981 to justify the proposed changes in management under the preferred alternative for each of the Management Areas. It is the understanding of the County that the proposed elimination and the proposed elimination and the proposed conditions on the affected lands. For improved resource conditions on the affected lands. The draft RMF should quantify these goals and show how the grazing exclusions help meet the goals.

Many livestock operators utilize BLM grazing allotments in conjunction with private holdings or los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) grazing leases to maintain commercially viable agricultural operations. While the total reductions are considered to the control of the control o

once eliminated, it is very difficult to re-establish grazing allotaents. Development of AMPs to protect important resources, rather than elimination of the allotaents, needs to be considered. It is the position of Inyo County that no economically and environmentally viable allotments be eliminated within the County.

3. Mining and Geothermal Development Issues

Mining and geothermal development is, and will continue to be, an important part of the economy of Inyo County. Consequently, the County is concerned about restrictions on mining and geothermal development in the preferred alternatives in the draft RMP.

The preferred alternative for the South Invo Management Area proposes Visual Resource Management (VRM) level II restrictions for all non-suitable wilderness areas (page 86). This may place significant restrictions on mineral

2

exploration and development in these areas. Since these study areas have been found to be non-suitable for wilderness, some justification for the more restrictive VRM level II restrictions should be included in the draft DMP.

page 137 of the draft RNP notes that "even minor environmental constraints can render [mineral deposits] uneconomic." We concur in this statement. Inyo County feels the economic impacts of the proposed alternative for each management area on mineral deposits should be adequately quantified in the draft ISI.

In the South Inyo and Owens Lake Management Areas, there are policies in the preferred alternatives to "prohibit goothermal exploration and development when it conflicts with habitat for listed, candidate, or other listed species of blanket prohibition, inyo County feels these projects should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with appropriate MEPA and CRQA documents. In this way geothermal projects which may be addressed to the projects which are considered to the projects which can be addressed to the projects which will be addressed to the projects which was also the projects which will be addressed to the project which will be addressed to the project which will be addressed to the project which we will be addressed to the project which will be addressed to the project which we will be addressed to the project which will be addressed to the project which we will be addressed to the project will b

4. Land Acquisition and Disposal

11-3

cont.

11-4

Based upon Inyo County Assessor's records, the preferred alternatives for Owens valley, Southern Inyo and Owens Lake Management areas in Inyo County identify BLM acquisition of 0,046 acres and disposal of 2,695 acres. Inyo County believes the figures for acquisition and disposal should be recombly on the common of the county of the coun

The preferred alternatives includes acquisition of 160 acres of land which is currently in private ownership. Already, 98.3 percent of Inyo County is in public ownership. The loss of any of the remaining private lands in the County has an adverse impact on providing orderly growth, affordable housing, and economic development for our citizens. Inyo County has consistently indicated a concern regarding the economic lempets of acquisition of private lands by public agencies such as BM on the County and its extract such as EM on the County and its extract of the found of Supervisors, lated May, 19651.

The socio-economic impacts of the proposed land acquisitions and disposals on Inyo County should be addressed in the draft RMF and EIS. The County should be provided a role in the draft land coordination of the acquisition and disposal of SMI lands that contractive 196 land withdrawal status agreement between the County, SMI and LAMPS.

In the draft RMF, acquisition of the identified lands is for specific purposes such as protection of sensitive species and will likely be implemented more quickly than land disposals and profity of land acquisitions and disposals will be accomplished through land exchanges between LADMP and BLMF, however the draft LMP contains no information on linking land

This linkage between land acquisitions and disposals needs to be coordinated with Inyo County. The tentative 1986 land withdrawal status agreement should be affirmed by designating it as a support need in each of the preferred siternatives also include the release of lands for community expansion, agriculture and maintenance of the County's tax base. In cases where lands are exchanged with LADRP, an equal amount of BLM and/or LADMP lands in the vicinity of existing the communities should be disposaling (at fair market value) to constitute the problems caused by federal and LADRP land ownership.

To provide for a modest two percent annual growth rate in the County; including housing, jobs and schools; disposal of at least 10-15 acres of land a year adjacent to the established communities by BLM and LADMF would be necessary. As a major landholder in the Owens Valley, it is the responsibility of BLM to provide these opportunities for planned and orderly suffer that the provided these opportunities for planned and creating the stable commonle base in the draft RMP. This includes proposed land exchanges between BLM and LADMF.

- The draft RMP fails to indicate how many acres will be specifically identified for disposal to private ownership and how many are identified for exchange with LADWP. Adequate without this two of informations in spaces is impossible without this two of informations.
- In addition, the extent of the economic impact to Inyo County's tax base should be assessed by a comparison of the tax revenue from LADWP and private lands identified for acquisition and disposal with the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (FILT) caid on federal lands.
- A specific concern is the draft SNU's identification of the disposal of only 80 acres of BMA lands edjacent to the County have agreed that 280 acres should be made available for community expansion in this area. These areas have been so designated in the 1986 tentative agreement on land to the community expansion in the state of the community expansion in the INFO COUNTY of the COUNTY of the

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A second specific concern is the identification of approximately 160 acres to be disposed of for agricultural development into the control of the control of

5. Powerline Transmission Corridors

11-10

The draft RMP's analysis of the transmission line corridor alternatives is imadequate to form the basis of a preferred alternative (Soldier Canyon). In fact, the recommended designation of State Highway 168 as a scenic byway would seem to conflict with this alternative.

Designation of the Soldier Canyon alternative is in essence creating a dead-end powerline corridor. Such an effort needs to be coordinated with the Inyo National Forest, and SLM resource areas in California, Newada and Utah. Such an effort should be driven by a proven need for should be driven by a proven need for each of the control of the control

In addition, although a site-specific EIS will be prepared for the preferred alternative, the selection process in this RIS requires a description of each of the alternatives, including an adequate amount of baseline data (inventories of sensitive plants and animals, cultural resources, visual impacts, etc.) to justify selection of the preferred alternative. As such, the analysis is inadequate under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1976 (NEPA). From the limited analysis, it appears all the alternatives will have roughly the same adverse impacts. The main rational for the preferred alternative seems to be to avoid construction of 60 miles of transmission lines along existing corridors in the Owens Valley. This does not offset the impacts to elk. sensitive plants and cultural resources. If the preferred alternative is retained in the final RMP, this portion of the draft EIS should be revised and recirculated.

6. Other Impacts

11-11

Prohibiting fuelwood harvesting in the Owens Valley and Owens Lake Management Areas may be a hardship on residents. Existing levels of fuelwood harvesting need to be quantified to assess this impact. Would this impact fuelwood gathering for camping uses? Nore information is needed in the draft BMP and EIS to justify why this is necessary.

If watershed withdrawals are lifted as proposed in the preferred alternatives, how would this impact development of small hydroelectric generation projects? These projects can have significant adverse impacts on fishery and riparian resources. Inyo County believes this issue needs to be specifically addressed in the draft RML.

Protection of mule deer winter ranges and tule elk calving a case may have adverse impacts on public access to Bild lands [11-12]. The proposed of the case of the

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document, as well as the courteous assistance provided by your staff. Please provide copies of any revisions to the draft RMP or EIS; final RMP and EIS; and Record of Decision to Inyo County at the following address:

Mr. Roger DeHart, Planning Director Inyo County Planning Department Post Office Drawer L Independence, California 93526

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. DeHart at (619) 878-2411, extension 2263, if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Robert Campbell, Chairman
Invo County Board of Supervisors

attachment Board Resolution No. 66-37

RC:CT

RESOLUTION NO. 66-37

WHEREAS, the orderly administration of a system of county government requires a stable source of tax revenues upon which budgetary considerations may be based; and

MHERRAS, the primary source of county tax revenue is real property taxation based upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real property situate within a given county; and

WHEREAS, annual county budgeting of appropriations and expenditures must rely largely on a fixed real property assessment valuation; and

WHEREAS, the State government and Federal government systems are empowered to acquire real property for various purposes including recreation and water development; and

'MHEREAS, such acquisition removes the real property involved from a county's tax rolls to the detriment of both the current budget and the permanent fixed tax base; and

WHEREAS, such acquisitions have occured in Inyo County causing a disruptive effect upon current budgetary considerations to the detriment of the citizens of the County:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo declares itself opposed to such activations insofar as they are disruptive to the orderly fiscal administration of County government and do hereby petition the State and Federal Legislatures for relief.

Passed and adopted this 16th day of May, 1966.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 11 (Inyo County Board of Supervisors)

11-1) The following rationale explains management decisions which differ from those determined in the 1981 Benton - Owens Valley Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Keough and Black Rock public lands were established as allotments to accommodate additional grazing demand in the event a qualified applicant was interested in grazing the area. No applications were received, Additionally, a review of those areas for grazing useability and manageability led to a determination that they would be better suited to having no grazing use. Hence, the decision is that they will remain unallocated. No prior grazing use or AUMs are eliminated.

The Sherwin and Round Valley allotments are existing allotments. The 1981 Grazing EIS had determined that continued livestock grazing would best be accomplished by establishing allotment management plans (AMPs) to meet goals for both livestock grazing and mule deer winter range habitat requirements for the Sherwin and Buttermilk herds. One individual is and has been the sole permittee for each allotment. In 1982 the permittee was consulted regarding the effect of the decision not to allow continued grazing use until AMPs were developed and implemented. At that time he verified that he had not made any actual grazing use of either allotment for the past 15 years. The decision was issued and there was no appeal.

Since 1982 this office has focused its AMP development elsewhere in the Resource Area to deal with more pressing issues and resource management concerns. During this period the permittee has not requested that the Sherwin and Round Valley AMPs be prepared.

The overriding resource concerns for the Sherwin and Round Valley allotments have been the total forage availability and vegetation condition for both livestock and mule deer. The decision to discontinue livestock grazing is based on the lack of actual livestock grazing use and the Bureau's concern for habitat conditions of the mule deer winter range.

The Southern Inyo unallotted area was not adequately addressed in the 1981 Grazing EIS; however, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared in 1985 to analyze the potential impacts from grazing the area. The resulting decision denied the proposed grazing use on the basis of low forage production, lack of water, steep slopes making much of the area unusable, and its wilderness study area status. The same rationale still applies; therefore, that decision will remain unchanged in the RMP

- 11-2) The loss of AUMs for the Keough, Black Rock, Sherwin and Round Valley allotments in Inyo County is small and is not viewed by the Bureau as posing a significant adverse impact to the agriculture economy for the following reasons:
 - The Keough and Black Rock allotments have had no permittees and have not been used for grazing.
 - 2. The Sherwin and Round Valley allotments have had no grazing use for the past 20 years. The permittee has one of the larger livestock operations not only within Inyo County but also in Mono and Kern counties. His overall operation is diversified and controls a substantial amount of non-federal grazing land. His operation would not be significantly adversely impacted.
 - The Ash Creek and Southern Inyo unallotted areas are not currently grazed.

With respect to livestock grazing the socioeconomic impacts in the RMP are similar to those addressed under Alternative II of the 1981 Benton-Owens Valley Grazing EIS. Those grazing decisions, particularly with regard to AUM adjustments, were made over 8 years ago. Therefore the overall impacts to the

livestock sector of the local economy have not been as significant as previously analyzed, and the 8 year period has allowed for renewed stability to those previously affected in 1981 - 1982.

11-3) See rewritten minerals section in Chapter 4.

The geothermal policy in the Owens Lake and South Inyo project would be analyzed through the NEPA process. If it could be developed in a manner which would protect these species, it would be allowed.

The estimate for the increase in VRM classifications is described in Cstapter 2 of the final RMP. Appendix 4 of the final RMP provides additional information. Parameters which apply to the VRM classes are described in Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures.

In the South Inyo management area there are 22,337 acres of high or moderate mineral potential. Of these, 5,061 acres, or 22% are in VRM-1 areas and 9,157 acres, or 40% are in VRM-2 areas. The Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area covers 28,200 acres and will be withdrawn from mining, pending congressional approval.

- 11-4) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 11-5) See general responses for watershed withdrawal (p.5-8) and for acquisitions and disposals.
- 11-6) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 11-7) In the Owens Valley taxes run from about \$5 per acre (for remote lands without water) to about \$20 per acre (for lands near Bishop). BLM payment in lieu of taxes amounts to about \$10.70 per acre. The financial impacts of each land exchange will be analyzed in site specific environmental assessments.

- 11-8) The RMP preferred alternative has been revised to include 280 acres for community expansion west of Independence.
- 11-9) This proposed disposal has been dropped from the RMP preferred alternative. This was a carryover from the earlier MFP. Thank you for calling it to our attention.
- 11-10) This decision has been changed in the final. Please see Chapter 2 for the revised decision and rationale.
- 11-11) Fuelwood harvesting in the Owens Valley and Owens Lake Management Area will be prohibited due to the scarcity of trees in those areas. Most residents of the Owens Valley obtain their fuelwood from either the Inyo National Forest or BLM lands within the Tonopah Resource Area.
- 11-11A) Please see general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 11-12) Mule deer winter range and tule elk calving areas comprise a very small percentage of the total resource area. These areas remain available for multiple use. Discretionary actions (i.e. fence construction, road construction, geothermal exploration, motorized vehicle events) which would adversely affect these areas would not be allowed. The determination of whether adverse effects would occur is made by the BLM Area Manager. Specific management plans (such as the High Desert OHV plan) will address measures to ensure foreseeable adverse effects do not occur.

WRITTEN STATEMENT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.) LIVESTOCK DRIVE CORRIDORS -I would like to see language included in the EIS to protect the existing 12corridors for driving stock up and down the valley. Bue to the nature of the area all livestock utilization cannot be centralized, without negative impact on the resources. Driving livestock is also a recreational activity that people enjoy and talk about for a life time. Horse drives from Independence to the mountains have been practiced for years by the packers. We as livestock producers have been planning and working out details for cattle drives, using commercial packers for organization and marketing. Submitted By: Ken Zimmerman Name (please print) Meeting Location: Bishor P.O. Box 910 Street Address Date: 11/29/90 Bellflower, Ca. 90706

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

12-2

Date: 11/29/90

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

The main channel is i	n private ground (DWP) and was man made so that
	gh could be accomplished. The BLM section for the
	made, prior to your acquistion from Zack Ranch.
	itches, and water ways should not be considered
	ould be managed and maintained for their primary
use, water shed. All other	use management plans should compliment the prima
use.	

Bellflower, Ca. 90706 City State

WIRITTEN STATEMENT

- 1	VVKITER 317	(TEVELY)
1	BISHOP RESOURCE MA	NAGEMENT PLAN
	(If you wish to make a written a this form. Please submit it to meeting.)	tatement, you may do so on a BLM representative at the
	BODIE HILLS MA ALTERNATIVES 3 6 4	
		to sheep usage on these ranges, woul
3	be devastating to existing ranches and	
1	the need of re-allocation of AUN's to t	
	convert from sheep to cattle to be comp	patible and compliment the current are
	usage. The large majority of water in	the area is on private ground. Fencing
1	of the private ground, so that we can	utilize all available feed, would have
	some impact on the free roaming nature	of the wild life in the area.
		-
1		
	Submitte	
		Name (please print)
	Menting Locations Bishop	
	Meeting Location: Bishop (town)	P.O. Box 910 Street Address
	Meeting Location: Bighop (town) Date: 11/29/90	P.O. Box 910 Street Address Bellflower, Ca. 90706

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

12-4

Benton MA Alternatives 3 & 4	
Alternatives 3 & 4 are asking	for livestock grazing to be prohibited
on the Fish Slough allotments. Thes	se closures would have negative impact on
our proposed grazing plan.	
We are lease holders on DWP L	ease, Fish Sloughes, and have a grazing
plan proposed to the DWP. The south	allotment is critical in this plan, as it
is the water source needed so utili	zation of proposed grazing cells can be
reslized.	
On the north end of the Fish	Sloughes, the allotment and proposed
closure would remove all water acce	ess from the southeast portion of the Hammi
Valley allotment. This narrow corri	dor should be left available or attached
to Hammil Valley to enhance utiliza	ation of available AUM's in this area. It
would also take pressure off the no	orth end of Hammil Valley where your deer
herda winter.	
We as lease holders support t	he items of Alternative #2 - manage for
livestock grazing and mineral devel	opment.
Sub	omitted By: Ken Zimmerman
	Name (please print)
seting Location: Bishop (town)	P.O. Box 910
	Street Address
ete:11/29/90 .	Belltlower, Ca. 90706
	City State Zip

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

				eration should be			
- 1	the ma	nagement p	lans: Manage	and enhance all	commercial	and non comme	rcial
	uses o	f public 1	ands in such	a manner that i	s economica	lly and enviro	nmente
	sound.	Promote m	mutiple use,	not protectionis	t policies	which are self	servi
1	for on	e departme	ent, species.	or group. Devel	op and mana	ge plana with:	n our
	budget	s and secu	re and admir	ister all availa	ble funds 1	n such a manne	r ao t
1.	existi	ng project	s are finish	ned prior to star	ting any ne	w projects.	
				Submitted By:	Ean Zim	74774P	
				Submitted By:	Ken Zim Name (please		
	Meeting Lo	ocation:		Submitted By:	Name (please	print)	
	Meeting Lo	ocation: _	Bishop (town)	Submitted By:	Name (please	print)	
	Meeting Lo			Submitted By:	P.O. Box Street Address	print)	Zip

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 12 (Ken Zimmerman)

12-1) Historically-used livestock driveways will remain unaffected by decisions in the RMP. Crossing permits will still be required if livestock trailing exceeds one day duration and will be subject to pertinent stipulations regarding minimum distance to be traveled, route to be taken, location of watering or overnight stops, and maximum time allowed for trailing.

Trailing of livestock by a permittee is subject to the Bureau's Grazing Administration regulations, whereas horse or cattle drives for commercial purposes (i.e. packers charging fees for services) require Recreation Permits. Both types of uses are compatible with the decisions in the proposed Bishop Resource Management Plan.

Livestock drive corridors are not mentioned in the plan because no changes have been made since the 1982 and 1983 grazing decisions relative to trailing.

12-2) Our reevaluation of Fish Slough's eligibility for Wild and Scenic River Study has indicated that the main channel on Bureau land is a result of natural processes. We have determined that man-made developments in the area consist of low dams built in the 1940's. These dams are no longer maintained nor serve any useful purpose. We maintain that Fish Slough is free-flowing as defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968: ".existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system shall not automatically bar consideration for its inclusion..."

Additionally, potential or existing resource conflicts that would result from any Wild and Scenic River designation will be evaluated in the upcoming suitability studies.

12-3) The Goat Ranch allotment had been grazed by one sheep permittee who leased the base property from two separate

parties until June 8, 1986, at which time he had no desire to renew his lease. We contacted the base properly owners informing them of the requirement to transfer the privileges within 90 days or be subject to cancellation of the permit. No new lease was found and no other qualified applicants filled an application for the grazing privileges on the Goat Ranch altoment

Therefore, at the discretion of the Bureau, the decision was made in 1987 to incorporate the former Goat Ranch allotment into the Rancheria Gulch allotment, which also has always been a sheep allotment. Effectively the Goat Ranch allotment has not existed since 1988.

The decision regarding the conversion from cattle to sheep use within the Bodie Hills Management Area has been removed from the final plan.

- 12-4) The area of your DWP lease in Fish Slough, and the majority of public land with which you are concerned, are in Zone 1 of the Fish Slough ACEC Plan which was adopted in October of 1984. The identified management philosophy for Zone 1 focuses on:
 - preserving and enhancing the natural integrity of Fish Slough and its associated habitats;
 - 2) ensuring stable and healthy populations of native plants and animals.

Goal #3 of the ACEC Plan is to reduce adverse impacts in livestock grazing activities near and within the wetlands habitats. The following items are excerpted for the plan:

Action: a) Construct necessary fence separating the Volcanic Tablelands and Hammil Valley allotments within the ACEC. b) Determine grazing allocation, if any, and proper grazing management measures to be applied in harmony with the management philosophy for the ACEC in the Fish Slough Allotment (No. 6004). c) Minimize trailing and sheep grazing activities from adversely influencing habitat conditions in the

area through strict adherence to allotment boundaries and/or trailing permit stipulations.

<u>Discussion</u>: Some of these actions were identified in BLM's Benton-Owens Valley Management Framework Plan Decision (1982) for Livestock Grazing Management. These livestock grazing actions should minimize adverse effects to wetland and aquatic habitats and yet provide some opportunities to utilize available range resources.

<u>Implementation</u>: Actions a and b will be completed in Phase I. Action c will be a continuing effort.

Although this was the intent at the time, at subsequent meetings the participating agencies have decided that pursuit of actions a and b would not be meeting the intent of the management philosophy for Zone 1.

Past and frequent instances of livestock leaving the fenced DWP leased lands, fence and gate maintenance problems, vandalism, increased public use and concerns over existing grazing use would only be compounded by expanding grazing use beyond current areas and current vegetation grazing levels.

The best interests and spirit of the ACEC Plan would not be met by accommodating additional grazing use on the adjacent public land. The added expense of additional fencing necessary to furnish approximately 35-45 AUMs of forage would not be cost effective.

12-5) The management theme for Alternative 4 - Area Wide (page 49 of the draft) is very similar to what you propose. We believe our proposal is a good balance of multiple use. If it leans toward "protectionist policies," it is in part because of the importance of environmental amenities to the economy of the recion.

Your suggestion that existing projects be finished before starting new ones is a good one.

393 Mt. Tom Rd. Bishop, CA 93514 12 December 1990

Area Managar Bureau of Lend Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

To the Manager:

Please consider the following comments on the Dreft Resource Management Plan and the Draft Environmental Impect Statement for the Bishop Resource Area.

My comments center on the proposed trensmission line corridors that would traverse the White and/or Inyo Mountains, and continue south through the Owens Wallay. The rationals for these corridors (pg. 30) is for increased system callability for the delivery of power to Southern California.

The preferred alternative of the Soldier Capyon route is identified as the most sensitive from almost every environmental point of viaw. It is the only 13-1 alternative that would impact sensitive plants, but no descriptions of which plants would be involved, where they are located, what the sizes or conditions of the populations are, or any other data are given. This information is crucial in considering this alternative, and including it in this final raport should be mendetory before a decision is taken. Sensitive behitets such as springs and wetland babitats are identified in the corridor, and protection measures for them should be described. Furthermore, it is admitted that impacts would be greet on tule alk calving grounds, and that raptors would be subject to injury and death in the Tinemeha area. The Soldier Canyon corridor has the present value as wilderness or "natural character", and would suffer the present impacts to this character. In view of the fact that the RIM's management theme for this erea amphasizes recreation instead of some exploitative use argues egainst despoiling the natural character of the corridor with a transmission line

75-2 The other Unite Hountain corridors are not acceptable either. All of thew would have comerge at the south on the margins of the Guene Lake, where it is admitted that 'there is little room between Guene Lake and the steep alogue of the Sizer' (pp. 135). Schednigh that corridor estimation into the lake bear is a series of springs and seeps in the area. All such impacts would have to evoided or expensively intigated.

Given that the enelysis of the alternatives concedes that not only are the "requirements for new corridors environmentally less desirable them using assisting developed corridors" (pg. 275), but also that the costs for building the longer term tissue the control of the longer term tissue the control of the costs of the longer term tissue the control of the costs of t

(pg. 266). Protections against most of the catastrophes cited could be es assily inclemented in the Las Vegas corridor as in the Quene Valley one; indeed, the earthquake concerns (which are the only ones which are sepecially believable) would be worse in this seismically unstable region.

18-3

cent.

The energy meets of the Southwest era likely to continue to increase in coainal years. It is high time that power companies devote like and energy to engineering solutions to reliability in transmission rether then resorting to the continual despositing of matural areas in an attempt to evote of rigorous technical analysis of reliability of power delivery. No one would consider the construction of a transmission line over the Sierra Newda. Although the White and lays foundation currently enjoy less cachet then do the Sierra as recreational paradies, their presisten character is equally continuate to recreational paradies, their presiste character is equally character to produce the special continuation of the second continuation of the seco

Sincerely.

locale serm

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 13 (Carla R. Scheidlinger)

13-1) The powerline corridor study's environmental impacts, including impacts to sensitive plants, are estimates based upon current resource inventories and professional knowledge. Only through a site-specific environmental analysis can a more detailed inventory, including an inventory of the occurrence and species of sensitive plants in the area, be made. Such an analysis will also identify any opportunities to avoid or mitigate impacts to resource values.

It is the policy of both agencies involved in the corridor study not to display, in public documents such as this, maps or information detailing the location and species of sensitive plants in our current inventory. Doing so attracts interest to the location of these plants, and could result in negative impacts.

Over 75% of the federal lands within the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor area are within the Inyo National Forest. The Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan identifies a "multiple user management prescription for those lands, with no emphasis on any particular resource. Powerline corridor designation within the Soldier Canyon area would be consistent with this management direction and with the draft RIMP's proposed action for the Owens Valley Management Area. However, the decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2.

13-2) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16), item 5.

13-3) See the Need Analysis section of the corridor study general response. Depending on the location of new power sources, the routing distance may also be significantly less through the Owens Valley for transmission to Southern California than through the Las Vegas area.

The draft RMP does not say that 1/3 of Southern California's electrical power needs are already being transmitted through the Owens Valley. It states (on p.206) that the amount of electricity currently being transmitted through the Owens Valley is only about 1/2 the amount currently being transmitted through the Las Vecas area.

Regardless of whether the potential for earthquakes may be higher in the Owens Valley than in Las Vegas area, further utilization of the Owens Valley would serve to increase system reliability by providing for greater opportunities for alternative transmission of power that might be necessary as a result of earthquakes causing the interruption of transmission in either location.

12-15-90

HAVE BOAD YOUR BORRET "Turner March Mar Paracernic 4: PROPOSED ACTION THE INE Koustace Docte, 70. 1 SURE WISH TO DEFENCE MAN MANUEL FOR THE MERCHANICA. I'm PERMITELY OFFESED TO THE COURSE CONYON FORER TRANS-MESSIAN LINE AURRICAR. 1. 19 SAM- PRISTING PROCE There The Proposed sonal REPORT LISTE IT BE LIST DERIPHE TO MAN & WILLING Marry IV was usous O.M. WENESE USE IN The PRICE May FURTHER DERUPTION BY construction well com THE AREA TO FIRTHER MEGAT

(INTRUEVON, FRUS YOUR COM TAKE ON THIS EXPERT ON Town ELK, Lit. I'M FASHEN BROWNE WHEN 14-1 10 ASSUME 15 YOUR STAND THAT THE FOUNTY TRANS-MISSICH LINE CORRIDOR BE INSTAUTO FROM THE LOS Vicens AREA-OR THAT THE EXISTIM MENTEONER PASS. Extra Pauce Line case-100R BE 11500. THOUSEYOU AGAN! (mall to Instant. P.O. Box 785 Bio Fing (A) 93513 Donald B. Constane

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 14 (Donald B. Constans)

14-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16). A site-specific environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required for any future transmission line project proposed within the Soldier Carryon area, including an environmental analysis that will solicit public comments and concerns about the impacts of powerline construction and maintenance in the area. During such an analysis, concerns related to off-highway vehicle use can be addressed. Site-specific construction and/or development measures can be identified which could serve to preclude additional unauthorized off-highway vehicle use, or perhaps even reduce current levels.

While the Soldier Canyon area might be considered "semipristine", it also has several primitive roads and a limited amount of mineral exploration activity. Transmission line use would not be inconsistent with the management direction for this area identified in the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan or in this RMP. 3141 Terrace Dr. Riverside, CA 92507 Dec. 10, 1990

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager, BLM 7B7 North Main St. Suite P Bishop CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

15-1

It has come to my attention that the draft plan for managing the lands of the Bishop Resource Area is indequente. In particular, I urge that all proposed Hiddenses Study Areas be seriously considered for wilderness, and that studing rates for livestock been. The likelihood of their continuing, and the obvious degradation of the range in any case. I as also concerned about off-road wholes and their major to netter and wildlife. In short, I think that a such sore conservative approach to wise use is called for, given very heavy use of the area and conditions of drought and apparent despraining of the proposed of the control of the

Endodesta

F. N. Anderson

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 15 (E. N. Anderson)

- 15-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. For your comments about OHV management, please see the OHV general response (p.5-8).
- 15-2) Livestock permittees voluntarily make adjustments in their grazing use when fluctuation in the conditions of the range occur, such as the present drought situation. Examples are 57% nonuse in 1990 and an anticipated 64% nonuse in 1991. Additionally the Bureau's grazing regulations permit us to temporarily suspend all or part of active grazing use due to drought, fire or other natural causes. The goals and decisions of this plan strive to ensure that rangeland conditions support the needs of wildlife and livestock.

J. S. Cain Co.
P. O. Box 128
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517
December 10, 1990

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, Ca 93514

Gentlemen:

We would like to register our opposition to the /6-/ proposed Alternate 4 of your Draft Management Plan.

It appears that the multiple use concept of your agency has been filted in favor of a special interest group, mamely the environmentalists. We feel that all the users of the public domain should receive equal consideration under the rules and requirements of appropriate Pederal, State, and local governmental agencies. You now have the authority to control and regulate uses which could degrade the environment, but that should not prohibit recreational, livestock, and mining interests from also usine this mublic land.

Sincerely, Walter B. Cain

Sec'v J. S. Cain Co.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 16 (J.S. Cain Co.)

16-1) Please see response 12-5.

Western Utility Group

Arizona Public Service Company State. From Company Public Prome dad Light Company. Public Service Company of New Haston Public Service Company of New Haston Public Service Company Service Public Service Company Service Public Service Company of Company of Company Service Public Service Company of Company of Coderade Newtock Purer Company for Disguis Service Servic

John W. Steck, Chairman

December 4, 1990

Mr. Mike Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

Bear Mr. Ferguson:

Reference is made to the Draft Resource Management Plant and Environmental Statement (MWPELS) covering the Bishop Resource Area which was recently poblished by the Bureau of Land Management. A significant part of this study was the identification of potential utility corridors crossing from Nevada into dam Owens Valley of California.

The Western Utility Group (WGC) commends the efforts of the Bishop the result of Area and the Inyo National Forest in their efforts in coordinating the Sierra Corridor Study. We sincerely hope that the cooperative efforts the property of the result of th

G will not sake any specific comments concerning the RM/RIS at this these members of the Will directly involved in the study will subsite ifficial comments. However, I would like to let you know that the Will is safiny with its 1900/1901 update of its steren Regional Corridor Study and information contained in the final Bishop RM/RIS will be incorporated wrin. Should you have any questions concerning Will's update please feel. The to contact the Will project manager, Mr. Carl Barnett, at (702) 689-3932. Will be incremented in the Single Singl

Again, The Western Utility Group commends the efforts of the Bishop Resource Area and the Inyo National Forest in their Cooperative Efforts. This an excellent example of just what inter-agency cooperation coupled together th public input can do to improve the land management planning process.

Sincerely,

John WS took

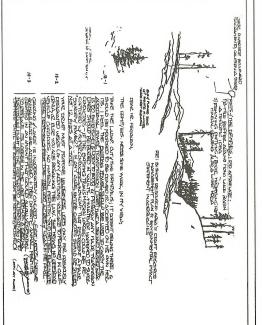
John Steck

CB:CC:2

17-1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 17 (Western Utility Group)

17-1) We appreciate the support of the Western Utility Group. Comments from individual WUG members include letters 60 and 162.



RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 18 (John Jay Ulloth)

18-1) Additional use of existing corridors, including the north-south DC Intertie route through the Owens Valley, will continue to be considered. Please see the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Current technology is such that burial is prohibitively expensive for anything but very short segments of major transmission lines. Technological or scientific breakthroughs in the field of superconductivity would indeed significantly reduce the need for many miles of transmission lines. However, until such breakthroughs occur, the utility industry must operate and plan based upon current technologies, projected forecasts of demand, and anticipated sources of additional energy to meet that demand.

See also the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.

- 18-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 18-3) The grazing decision issued subsequent to the 1981 Benton-Owens Valley Grazing EIS accommodated the wildlife forage demand on an allotment before livestock AUMs were reallocated. Most grazing decisions resulted in some reduced livestock grazing capacity, and decisions restricting or staggering livestock grazing on deer winter range were approved. The 1982 Bodie-Coleville Grazing EIS identified wildlife forage demands. However, the follow-up vegetation monitoring has not validated the need to adjust livestock numbers.

ROBERT C. LUKESH, M.D. 8 OVERHILL COURT ORINDA, CALIFORNIA 9883

12/4/90

Denn In:

19-1

You mari include gauging
As is mayor issue in the Rimp
bea Behop.

Tilmsi ya

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 19 (Robert C. Lukesh, M.D.)

19-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

R-7 Orchard Park Davis, CA 95616 December 16, 1990

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

I am writing today to comment on the Bishop Resource Area's draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The preferred alternative is totally inadequate in regard to wilderness recommendations and grazing and mining concerns.

The amount of wilderness study areas recommended for wilderness status is entirely too low. You recommend less than 10% of the possible number of acres. These desert lands are a remarkable inheritance that should be left undisturbed for future generations. In addition, roadless recreational lands in California are becoming degraded by intensive use. Thus, more of these lands must be permeantly protected as wilderness.

The Resource Management Plan does not fully address grazing issues. The destruction of rangeland by cattle is a sad legacy throughout the West. Data on your particular rangeland should be included in order to make an intelligent decision on needed steps to protect resources.

The amount of land removed from eligibility for new mining claims is far too little also. We must remove the welfare miners from our public lands. The 1872 Mining Law is a joke by today's standards and we must not continue to literally give away public lands or allow its unmitizated abuse.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please do not add me to your mailing list to receive a copy of the final Environmental Impact Statement as I will have access to someone else's.

Sincerely.

KSE Succes

Kile E. Snider

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 20 (Kile E. Snider)

- 20-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 20-2) See the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 20-3) We have reviewed mineral potentials and conflicts with other resources. We have given further attention to this during the comment period and, other than a mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl (see p. 2-22, final RMP), do not believe any further withdrawals are needed. The protective measures proposed in Alternative 4 adequately protect these resources.

The 1872 Mining Law is currently being reviewed in Congress; any comments regarding this law should be addressed to your Congressman.

BLM is working on administrative procedures to deal with Mining Law abusers and to improve reclamation requirements.



Mary DEDecke Bottenist 140 M. PAYILION STREET P.O. BOX 506 INDEPENDENCE, CA. 93526 (619) 878-2389

December 19, 1990

Re: Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Sir:

21-1

Thank youfor the opportunity to review this DRMP and EIS.

In looking over the four alternatives I recomment Alternative 3, Natural Resource Ennancement. I feel very strongly that it is our resonsibility to follow the best environmental plan while we still have a choice. Other pressures may be hard to deny, but the uttimate judgment will be based on the condition of the land and well being of the living things upon it.

For the same reason I oppose a transmission line corridor through Soldier Canyon. It has unique value now as a readless area in a very fine mountain range. I would commider it a traget reason to the same reason to the same reason to the reason the reason to the reason to the reason to the reason to the reason

For the most part I consider this a good outline of the proposed management plans. Newer, I was disappointed to see so little on native plants in the discussions of immacts by management area. The Inyo Mountains are rich in sensitive species, and each of the other areas have some which should be considered. Now many the content of the

Yours sincerely,
"Mary De Decker
Mary DeDecker

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 21 (Mary DeDecker)

- 21-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 for the revised decision and rationale. The Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area is not devoid of roads. Page 169 of the draft RMP describes this area as having primitive two-track routes and a limited amount of mining activity. While p.210 of the draft states that powerline construction would negatively impact the area's natural, undisturbed character, it was not considered significant enough to be an unacceptable environmental impact. The corridor study included evaluation of estimated impacts to various environmental and social values, and tentatively concluded that corridor designation in Soldier Canyon would minimize the collective impacts to all of these values without causing unacceptable impacts to any one of them.
- 21-2) The number of sensitive plant species by management area are as follows: Coleville (0), Bridgeport (1), Bodie Hills (2), Granite Mountain (3), Long Valley (3), Benton (5), Owens Valley (5), Owens Lake (1), and South Inyo (0). The five sensitive plant species in the Benton management area are the same in the Owens Valley management area. Sensitive plant information was accidentally left out in four management areas. See Appendix 6 (Errata) 3 in the final for this information.

As stated on p.50 of the draft RMP, the management category of yearlong protection has been placed on sensitive plant habitat and candidate/listed plant habitat. Under this management category, no discretionary action which would adversely affect the plants or their habitat would be allowed. Current and future casual use would be managed to prevent disturbance that would potentially affect sensitive plants. Locatable mineral exploration and development is permitted, with necessary mitigation to protect plant habitat, if possible.

We cannot accurately estimate which plants and their habitat might be 'endangered' (your word) as a result of decisions in the RMP. A focus of this plan is to prevent any additional damage to sensitive plant species and their habitat. Please also see response 100-11.

Construction Specialty

Box 181 Lee Vining, CA 93541 (819) 647-6346

18 DECEMBER 1990 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT BISHOP RESOURCE AREA 787, NORTH MAIN ST. SUITE P BISHOP. CA. 93514

ATTENTION: MIKE FERGUSON - AREA MANAGER

DEAR MR. FERGUSON:

I MOLD LIE TO EXCEST THAT TWO CIVE ATTENTION TO THE LADD USES MEAD LEE VILLED IN REGARD TO THE ROSSIBILITY OF DESCRIATE SOME MANN FOR UTIPE EXPANSION MEAN DONC LITT AND SEAR.
21. THE COTTORNOOD CLAYDR BROAD. THE TOSS OF LEE VILLED IN VIETNALLY LADD-LOCKED AND THESE IS IN PRESENT A STREET SOURCE ATTENTION OF ANY DESCRIBED AND THE SEAR OF THE

TRANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

Kallilan C, Horac

GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL CONTRACTORS License No. 284967 TRUCKING DIVISION

Cal T 133-366

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 22 (Construction Specialty)

22-1) Based on your comments we have revised the plan to provide 80 acres north of Mono City for residential expansion and community services. Additional public lands are not identified for disposal in this area because private development could degrade scenery in the Mono Basin. Within two miles of Cottonwood Road there are about 3,500 acres of private land available for residential expansion. Dec. 26,90'

Dean Sin.

I've studied the new Management Plan and EIS and I feel informed to a point. I have a few questions and comments.

Being boan in Big Pine I don't welcome change gaccefully,

1 au family own 40 access in the Beep Springs Malley and we
bought this land because it was any out of town and quiet.

And here comes the "Wet and Powerful" rahing for a Utility
Canadon though one of this states cleanest corns. This

not acceptable in our valley, the power lines are dangerous
and fax tow voly. What the BMP does with in meason on their
land is their business and what I do on mine is mine. Another
concern is it the consider would as through her power, what stops

the DVP faon then steating my water as they have Ken Steward's

The DVP should go the southern soute and heep the meast in one
apot. Also they can prove to the people of thin state that they
can come up with new energy in their area like solar and wind,
there's plenty of hot air in the south learn.

The wild game has had alot of pressure in the last 10 years in Rec poppings and is almost gone, new mode and more people will hust all in the valley mismals and man too.

In the Draft it is said not many people use this area.

8ull many many people use this area at diffrent time that's
why we don't see each other out these too often. That's quality.

I need to comment on your enforcement aigns in the action, you can interest of the action, and back yeard with these aigns, they are no different than a pile of old tin cans. Also closing areas for "Wildeaness Study" is a tealing from me as I have used these lands all my life and have also taken cane of them.

Thanh you for letting me coment.

20 2 - 642

Big Pine, CA 9232

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 23 (Timothy Johnson)

- 23-1,2,3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p. 2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p. 5-16). The statement that utilities "should go the southern route" is assumed to mean that utilities should continue to use the Las Vegas area as the location for constructing transmission lines to deliver power from Utah/Nevada to Southern California. Appendix 8 of the draft RMP and the general response for the corridor study further address the issue of need for a new east-west corridor in this part of California/Nevada.
- 23-4) Page 210 of the draft RMP states that the Soldier Canyon area receives little use by humans. Neither the BLM nor the Forest Service have specific numbers to quantify human use of the area. However, the experience of both agencies has been that this area receives relatively minimal human use. It has only limited primitive and four-wheel drive road access, no designated trails, no developed recreation sites, and no well-known nor designated resource attractions that would otherwise draw the public to visit and use the area in numbers comparable to many other parts of the Bishop Resource Area and the Invo National Forest. The fact that the Soldier Canvon is almost entirely uninhabited by human beings and receives relatively little human use serves to mitigate the concern about potential negative impacts of prolonged human exposure to high levels of EMF.
- 23-5) Signs are an indirect means of informing public land users of area values or regulations. In all cases, the Bureau attempts to locate signs to minimize sign "pollution". In situations where sign pollution has occurred, we will consider relocation or reconstruction of the sign.

Land uses that were occurring on public land when they were designated as wilderness study areas are generally allowed to continue as long as the wilderness values are not impaired.

Dean H. du Vernet 1448 Fourth Street Baywood Park, CA 93402 (405) 528 2489 December 20, 1990

Mike Forguson Area Manager, BLM 787 North Main Street Suite P Bishop CA 93514

RE: Proper management and wilderness preservation in the Bishop Resource Area of the BLM.

Dear Mr. Ferguson: I have visited this area over twenty times through the years even though I have always lived over 300 miles from the Bishop Resource Area. It is a boantiful and spectacular region which has proven more enchanting than any other, area I have visited. Natural beauty is the greatest resource of this fantastic land that you manage.

Please preserve as much of this area as wilderness as possible. Most of this area is deserving of national park status in my opinion. In an official sense over 78 percent has already been designated as Wilderness study Area's and they are certainly deserving of Wilderness status. The Slinkard Valley the Bodie Mountains, Granite Mountain, the Volcanic Tablelands - Fish Slough area and the conthern Ingo Mountains should become wilderness. It is the best method of protecting habitat, wildlife and scenery. These are the only reasons I visit and scenery. I nese are the only reasons therefrom the area and in this day and age most Americans are very concerned about the environment. There is very little wildeness left compared to what there was The Resource Management Plant chould consider all Wilderness Study Areas and law requires this and also that these areas stury wilderness until Congress makes a determination. Also, the issue of governs in the

24-1 entire area should be addressed and potential wilderness should not be eligible for ever wining claims or monaging one of the most in accordible areas or Earth. Plans preserve the land for all follows governtions the following properties.

5-56

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 24 (Dean H. DuVernet)

24-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11). The RMP has some decisions which directly affect livestock grazing and others, e.g. the DPC goals, which indirectly affect livestock management. The RMP is considered a fine-tuning of the grazing EISs' preferred alternatives.

Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

ROBERT T. WILKE REAL ESTATE

★ SINCE 1946 ★

(805) 259,404

MEMBER - SANTA CLARITA VALLEY BOARD OF REALTORS AND MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE
24316 Arcadis St. PO Box 785 Newhall California 91322

December 28, 1330

U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Menagement 787 North Wein Street Suite P Bishop, California 93514-2498

Re: Letter dated November 1, 1990 Concerning Siahop Resource Menagement Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (HMI/FIS).

Attention: Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager.

Re own approximately 85 acres in two percels on Hiway 167 known as tax percels 13-240-08 and 13-240-09 in Mono County. The Trench Canyon Custrentle mas shows a well located in the southwest corner of the property and the Bodis-Benton reliroad historical is located near the side of the two percels.

We have not been able to strond any of the public meetings because of vertous problems. Our plens for these properties are uncertain, but would like you consider some of the possible uses for this property.

25-4 In the past we have been approached by meethermal companies for the possibility of lessing and we note other mineral activity in the erea along pole line road (167) and around the Bodie area.

Also, with the possible development of the Conway Ranch, many changes will task piace and another trailer para could be used in the area. We spend about a routh each year in Mono County and sometimes cannot find a place to park our motor home, at a reasonable price.

We respectfully request you consider these possible uses in your finel plen.

Since rely.

Robert T. Wilke

Phayers Your

Morg yet L. Wilke

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 25 (Robert T. Wilke)

25-1) Geothermal leasing on private land is outside the scope of this document and is addressed by Mono County.

> Geothermal leasing and mineral activity on federal land along Pole Line Road (167) may continue under Alternative 4 with restrictions to meet visual quality standards.

25-2) Private developments on private land, such as trailer parks, would have to conform to the Mono County Land Use Plan. Bureau policy allows residential development on public land only in rare cases, such as temporary authorization of inadventent occupancy trespass. Generally the public land would have to be sold to allow private residential development of public land. We have revised the plan to provide 80 acres north of Mono City for residential expansion and community services.

MOELLA BALLENGER - JALIEM TULLEY A Photographic Cooperative P. 0. 80x 457, La Canada, CA 91012 (818) 954-0933 - (818) 792-2801

January 3, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson Bureau of Lend Hanagement 787 M. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferouson:

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the BLK meeting in Benton on December 6th. Ne greatly appreciate the apportunity to address BLK on our concerns about mining in your district and most specifically the Bodie Hills Kanagement Area.

As we discussed, we here prepared some specific comments on each phase of the BLM Dreft as it pertains to Bodie. In eddition, we have included several supplemental reports, newspaper items and notes that may be of interest and assistance to you to support our comments.

Our hope would be thet BLM would have the courage to ect as a true trustee of these lends end permanently reject any mining intrusions

We would like to make it very cleer that we are not apposed to mining in general but we are very apposed to mining for gold (which is a non-essential commodity). We especially appear mining citivities in the Bodie Mining District which is se rich is cultural resources and is edjecent to extremely fregile None besin Metional Forest Senic Area.

on these properties. Their would be, in our spinion, the very basis of the options. Short of that, we well are BLM to not prent any maining until BLM has the mempower and the regulations in place to be a supported by the second of the secon

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 3, 1991 Page 2

We congratulate you on the measures you are proposing in the draft but feel that you have not gone nearly for enough to protect and preserve the land. Please consider our statement carefully in the final plan and have the courage to set new precidents for sefecarding the land for our future engerations.

Thethe Billinger James Lulley

NOELLA BALLENGER - JALICA JOLLA A Photographic Cooperative P.O. Box 457, La Canada, CA 91012 (818) 954-0933 - (818) 792-2801

RISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:

PREFACE TO COMMERTS: The organization of the comments we wish to make generally follows the plan. Page numbers will be in parenthesis followed by a dash and a column number or a section title, a second dash and the paragraph number in that column or section.

SECTION: MAJOR ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THE PLAN

(p.22-MIREALS-1) We highly applied BLM efforts to reduce

conflicts over nineral development. However we encourage BLM to
take a very hard line with non-essential mineral exploration and
development (such as pold) throughout the Bishop Minagement Area.
Because of massive disturbance to the suvironment by modern negamining techniques. BLM needs to take an even greater
responsibility of control than it has in the past. BLM controls
vest leads and these are held in trusteening for all people. The
weigh heavily to the protection of property for the majority and
not the profit of a few.

SECTION: GENERAL POLICY

[9.26-6EMERAL POLICY-4] Management of public lands to preserve served to the control of the cont

The following are suggestions for tightening regulations:

 BLM require on-site during-business-hours inspection of the total operation, preferably random weekly non-announced visits. This would require additional BLM man-power.

Concurrent reclamation of all mined lands during the actual mining operation. Any non-compliance should automatically cause immediate closure of the mining facility until reclamation of previously mined lands are brought up to code. BALLENGER/TULLEY
BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
Page 2

26-4 cont. 3. Bonds for rastoration and ractamation should be set so high that the mining company would not be able to well away from an operation and confortably forfest the bond. The bonds should not be pushtive but fully cover the projected costs should the mining company not fulfill their costs should the mining company not fulfill their costs should the mining company not fulfill their costs should the mining manager at a nearly Raveds as a commented on the bugs pit (approximately 1600 feat wide, 2000 feat long and 600 feat down and their company was going to rill in the pit. We said not that the pit would not be set of the company was going to rill in the pit. We said not that the pit would not be the cost of the cost of

Vs wrps NLM not to consider any mining apploration and development until and unless NLM has admusted manyous to police fully, all phases of a mining operation. Self regulation should not be considered for any activities on public land. We feel that when NLM has full regulations in place, with stiff panelliss, for any violations and than support not follow through in their position of seriguring the public thereal; the add only than income activities and any than the series of the series

Please note that we are primarily concerned with the nonassectial invaried operations. Gold was declared enemessatial to the wifers of the United States by President Receivest at the beginning of Forted War II. All sining production of pieces beginning of Forted War II. All sining production of pieces of the faces and from 250,618 tray oz. to 5,014,656 tray oz.in 1595 (figures related from the Raveds Burnau of Hinns). The primary was for the sineral is in Javalry. We would ask all BLW partners to the production of the pieces of the pieces of the superior technology to get it back no it was. For this reason alone, the decisions and by BLW should be nade with far more castion than one might ordinarily appect. The top priority should be the presention and preservation or the land and not

(p.26-EEREAL POLICY-) We again applied the afforts of BUR to consider long-term benefits for the native public. It would be attramely sad to look back in 10 years and know that a difference could have bone ander, and wenn't. Today, difficult desictions and to be made, when political and financial pressure by individuals or corporations is earted to private a course and in BALLENGER/TULLEY
BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
Pagn 3

We urgs BLM and all involved agancias to closely azamina their card.

26-6 position; to have the courses to plan for long turn beamfits for card.

all; and to dany requests which fulfill salf interests and short turn profits for a faw. We are BLM to have the courseg to look to the feture and weigh today's actions against the results that will affect the feture of land half by BLM in trusteephile.

SECTION: ALTERNATIVES FOR INDIVIOUAL MANAGEMENT AREAS AND RATIONALES FOR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

BOOIE HILLS MANAGEMENT AREA

Alternative 1: Under this alternative we agrea that there should be year long protection for South Soul and would accoverage continued restrictions for structures or improvements unless they may in harmony with historic and visitor uses values. We have hed the privilege of driving many of the small roads in and around Book still a their sections, continued vigilance in the

Howars, the general thems of this alternative allows for status of the control of

Altanactive 2: The general theme of managing livestock grazing and interest developments bings on legally mandstad constraints. Buttl the controversy over the Hinfog Lew of 1872 and until the UN regulations with regard to panalities and adequate manpower are resolved in Meshington, we feel this theme contains words that are basically unsenforceable.

(p.62 - Alt. 2 - Oncisions - #1) We do not feel that any land 26-9 under BMR control in the Soudia Hills MR should be disposed of for rasidantiel mapassion or any other commercial use. It is important to the arms that the BMR rateful complete control and BALLENGER/TULLEY BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS: Page 4

24-9

cont

not set the precedent of lend disposal for eny reason. While it is presumed that only residential expansion might take place on the property, the subsequent re-sale of property would not necessarily cerry forwer the careful restrictions that BLM's management would mendete on the initial sale. We elso wrige that 13 bLM land that is a part of a disposal package be disposed of without release of any mineral rights. Those rights should be held by BLM. As a alternate, we suggest that any lands in or all the subsequence of the

Alteractive 3: We helieve that the those of this elternative addresses the Issue the best. We helieve the reserves that have been depleted over the past either by see or natural causes (is. widdlife habitat) should be restored. Recreational opportunities should be escouraged within protective guidalines. The preservation and prestetion of scent end historical values.

(p.63 - Alt 3 - Oscisions - #1) We agree that land should not be described of but additional acrosses in the area should be acquired. What specific 13,825 across of private line is being acquired and why? In this land acquirition a streight purchase aspecifically is being irreded and why and to whose. We believe that all of this information should be specifically decided in the final amengement plan. We strongly oppose a BM agreement to approximate the service of the

(p. 63 - Alt 3 - Decisions - #2) We believe BLM could enhance the Bodie Hills MA dispersed recreetional opportunities. We 26-11 would urge that these opportunities be limited in scope and most especially subjected to the overall objectives as detailed in the specific management theme of this alternative. We would oppose any changes or recreational opportunities with in the Bodie Bowl aree that would impect on the Bodie State Historic Perk's specific goel of providing a ghost town experience for visitors. We are specifically concerned with and greatly opposed to the rumored suggestion of a Visitor - Interpretive Center ediacent to the park to interpret old and new mining techniques. Since the park is about a ghost town experience and not about mining) an interpretive center would not enhance the experience but offer a major distraction. There are other interpretive centers in the State Perk system that deal specifically with mining. We urge BLM not to consider en exchange of lend or any other similar consideration in the Bodie Hills MA. If a center is to be built, it should only be developed, maintained and overseen by the

BALLENGER/TULLEY BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS: Pege 5

- 26-II | Depertment of Parks and Recreation and should fully meet the conf. | c
- [9.64 Alt 3 Occisions f5] We strongly urgs all land with
 26-f2 [Season of the control of t
- (p. 64 Alt 3 Col 2 MATER QUALITY) One of the primary reasons for appearition to missing centers erround water. Whiring activities take a transmious second of water. Where will it come from and should it the used for a non-essential product? New can it he explained that precious water is being used for an activity (Jewerys)?
- In addition to the high amount of water demanded, it is imperative to monitor with high standards, both ground and 26-14 surface water at or near mining activities. However, there is enother mendate -- to provide funds for future clean up of today's "accidents". We would urge BLM to take a far-sighted epproach end require a high level restoration and repair bond and/or trust accounts to pey for possible future damage to the environment. In this way, mining companies will be held accountable for the results of their accidents, whether they be by neglect or oversight. BLM is in e position of leadership to make a very strong stand where mining is allowed to merge the profit interests of the miner with the protection interests of the general public. We ask that you look at the enclosed materials from McLaughlin/Homestake mines end the article of the settlement of Castle Hountain in the Hojeve Desert as minimum requirements and settlement mendates.

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BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
Page 6

26-16

We suggest that in addition to the material contained in Alternative 3 BLM include the following provisions from Alternative 4:

(p65, Col 2- fl) "Wehicle routes impacting important mule deer and sage grouse concentration areas will be classed, seasonally closed or rerouted to imporve and protect habitat."

(p65, Col 2- #5) "Prohibit grazing on the ¶Copper Mountain allotment to reduce conflicts with wildlife."

(p65, Col 2-7b) "Prohibit activities which affect the Mational Landmark adversely [36 CFR 800.9 (a,b)] using standards and guidelines to determine when unnecessary and undue degradation occurs."

Alternative 4: Please see our comments under Alternative 3 for theme, acquisition and disposal of land under BLM control.

(p.65 - DECISIONS - DEC PRESCRIPTIONS) - we agree with the PPC posts to enhance wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. We wree that these same goals or higher be mandated on any land disturbed by saints, geothermal activity, commercial livestock tree of the property of the property

Ip.66 - BAITOBALI) - Alteractive 4 does not take a hard enough stand on the potential and inherent disturbances as a result of mining activities which include temporary buildings, heavy machinery usage, explosives, chemicals, notes and air pollution, as well as heavy personnel traffic to and from any mining possibilities. We would encourage RIM to adopt the most stringent regulations possible if they do not close the entire management area to mining. We feel that this particular management area which includes Bodie State Historic Park and the historic stee of Masonic and Chammay should receive RIM's

BALLENGER/TULLEY
BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
Page 7

number of company and contract employees.

SECTION: IMPACT ON MINING: LOCATABLE AND SALABLE MINERALS

22-17 alternative figures are used stating that animals will represent at additions 11 - 22 will be easier to those when the stating that animals will represent at additions 11 - 22 will be delibered to be succeeded to the state of Area of o

we would also refer you to the information given to us by Ray Errass, Monestake McLuaphilm Mine's eaviernmental manager at the Mining conference in Coulterville -- October 1890. Again, note that Recumplin refers to twelf can a world class gold deposit. Their project currently employs 210 workers and has an annual payroll of \$7 million with another \$5 million spent in the community annually. They paid \$1 million in taxes last year. The project of the part of the community annually.

the amount of silver produced and finally according to the total

We urge you to call Dee McBride of the Tuscarora Hone Owers Association (2072-756-550) to understand what happened to the economics in their community when the operation at Tuscarora exceptions are not succeeded by the community of the community in terms of county uniform and an association of the community in terms of county uniform and assistance, general musicipal in 1990 west to a temporary leach only factor with 9 mulgings.

We feel that based upon the numbers mentioned in the information we are forwarding to you, the \$1 - \$2 billion and \$50 - 250 joh numbers you are using in all of these alternatives are extremely unrealistic, by using inflated estimates, there is an implied considered with the rationale that a wine at Bodie would cause an economic boom in the community. We seriously question the figures that you are using in your estimates and would like to see detailed information as well as your sources for these prejections, is addition, if you are looking at the benefit to look and consider the pressure it will put on the community.

BALLENGER/TULLEY
BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
Page B

- services in the near term and in the long run. Also, taken into consideration should be the expected life of the mine. Because these numbers seem grossly inflated, we would ask you to review and rethink the entire mineral proposal in line with more realistic information and documentation enclosed.
- (p)76-181 PROJECTIONS) <u>Seneral comments</u>: We can not find listed information on the 'ile expected major projects...Quality which...J will be 'super' projects, including the Bodie-Galactic Project'. While we are familiar with the Bodie project, we would like to see location information as well as timely full disclosure on the other projects. We would also like to say these individual projects subject to the same tilk requirements within the final nearest also.
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(p. 197-199 - IMPACT on MINING: Locatable & Salable Minerals) Alternative 3: Again, we urge BLM to take the most conservative line with regard to any mineral development. In our opinion. some of the "most precious" resources in the area are the cultural resources such as ghost towns and remnants of our historic western expansion period in the 1800's. In other areas and other states most of the old ghost towns have been destroyed or the atmosphere changed dramatically by having new mines in the immediate vicinity. Bodie Nills MA is one of the few areas where true short towns and historic sites have been left relatively unnolested in modern times. Mithdrawing all land in the Bodie Mining District from any mining consideration is the preference. We especially urge access to private lands across BLM lands not be permitted for mining purposes. We do not believe that this is an issue that should involve mitigation or negotiation.

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BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ COMMENTS:
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CONCLUSION:

26-20

We would again like to complience BLM on the thorough preparation of the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We appleud their efforts but feel that they do not go nearly far enough for the preservation and protection of their managed lands.

We use unconditional restrictions on mining activities on public lands in the best interest of the <u>search public</u>. We set that all mining activity in the Bodie Mining District and especially in the vicinity of bodis State Mistoric Park, Bodie Bowl, Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bodie Bull land in the vicinity of the above be closed to use by mining companies, including access routes across Bull lands.

We would remind all BLM managers and officials including Secretory Lujan that BLM is a trustee of public lands. AS TRUSTEE, SLM's minest below the second of the profession and AS TRUSTEE, SLM's minest below the second of the profession and AS TRUSTEE, SLM's minest below the second of the second of the second of the school of the second of the second

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 26 (Noella Ballenger and Jalien Tullev)

26-1) The assertion that gold is a nonessential mineral is not entirely correct. About 15% of all gold produced is used for industrial purposes, such as dentistry and electronics. Moreover, an entire industry is based on making jewelry from gold. The impacts to this industry and to the economy supported by the industry would be great if gold were no longer available.

About 90% of all silver produced has industrial applications, the remaining 10% used in jewelry. Is silver 'essential?" The BLM could not and should not assume the responsibility of defining 'essential' versus 'nonessential' minerals. Any attempt to regulate mining in such a manner would embroil the BLM in controversy and severely curtail the agency's Congressionally-mandated mission of multiple-use management.

- 26-2,3,4) See general response on minerals (p.5-13).
- 26-5) The multiple use concept, as intended by Congress, includes minerals as a resource in the same light as wildlife, cultural, and other resources on public lands. The BLM views mining as a legitimate use of public lands as long as mining activities conform with regulations and other BLM mandated restraints. The RMP is not, in itself, an instrument to propose or approve of future mining projects. Manpower requirements in the future will depend on what level of regulation is mandated by the RMP. Proposals for additional staff will be determined by management direction and fortified by the RMP requirements.
- 26-6) BLM has no authority to eliminate mining on public lands as a management tool for sub-surface resources except as part of a mineral withdrawal. In the case of mineral withdrawals, claimants have rights to minerals as a property right.
- 26-7) Please refer to response 15-2.
- 26-8) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and documented.

26-9) The 62 acres of public land identified for disposal under alternative 2 are adjacent to existing residential developments in Bridgeport. In the Preferred Alternative (alternative 4), only 2 acres near Bridgeport are identified for disposal for residential expansion, due to the importance of natural resources in this area. The lands and minerals map for alternatives 2 and 4 also identified the Bodie Cemetery Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) Lease for disposal. The purpose of this disposal would be to allow the California Department of Parks and Recreation to patent this parcel under the R&P Act. This disposal was added at the request of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Mention of this R&P disposal was inadvertently omitted from the narrative in the draft; it is included in the final.

BLM can sell or exchange public land without releasing mineral rights if doing so would best serve the public interest. The question of whether or not to retain mineral rights on a particular parcel will be considered prior to any disposal; the decision will be based on a detailed analysis of each case and it would be inappropriate to make that decision at this time. By regulation, R&PP leases are closed to mineral entry. R&PP patents always reserve mineral rights to the federal government.

- 26-10) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 26-11) Your comments have been noted and considered. The Bureau does not intend to construct a visitor-interpretive center near the state park. As in the past, the Bureau will manage the Bodie Bowl area in accordance with the Bodie Bowl Cooperative Agreement. For further information about the cooperative agreement, refer to the draft RMP, Chapter 3, <u>Recreation Use</u> Areas.
- 26-12) See general response for Bodie (p.5-5) and item 5 of minerals response.

- 26-13) Water for mining in the Bodie Hills management area would come from local ground water. The Bureau is required under the Federal Land Policy Management Act to provide for extraction of metalliferous minerals. Measures involving water conservation, protection of water quality, and protection of biological resources associated with surface water sources would be applied to any proposed activities, including mineral extraction.
- 26-14) Surface and ground water quality are closely monitored at cyanide heap leaching operations. Plans of operation have bond requirements. See the general response on minerals.
- 28-15) We appreciate your endorsement of the DPC goals we have established. Under RMP implementation and monitoring, we will manage activities such as grazing, mining, geothermal, fuelwood harvesting and recreation to meet vegetation condition objectives where DPC management occurs.
- 26-16) We consider the National Historic Landmark at Bodie to be one of the most important resources within the Bishop Resource Area. The main thrust of management within the Bodie Hills MA is protection of the National Historic Landmark at and around the town of Bodie, and we are giving it our highest priority for protection. The VRM and ACEC decisions in Alternative 4 have been rewritten to more clearly reflect this intent. The final RMP also includes a mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl (p.2-22).

By law and regulation, we are directed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of resources by any mining operation. Through these decisions and the guidelines described under support needs, we will establish criteria which define unnecessary and undue degradation as anything which would impair the integrity of the existing historical landscape, or would be inconsistent with the Landmark goals. These decisions and guidelines would guide any proposed activity, whether for mining, recreation, wildlife, or livestock.

No operation of any type would be allowed if it could not comply with these guidelines and decisions. See general Bodie response.

This management area does not include Masonic nor Chemung, which are on the Toiyabe National Forest.

- 26-17) See response 54-4.
- 26-18) The term "super project" has been deleted from the final.
- 26-19) There are private lands within the Bodie Bowl over which the BLM has no authority. Access to a private mine over existing roads on public land will be allowed unless the BLM determines that the off-site activity would cause undue and unnecessary degradation to public lands. If so justified, the road would have to be closed to all users.
- 26-20) See the general response for Bodie.

Dear Sir -

27-1

I would like to express appointion to preving a power line corridor seen to me to be necessary when

the existing levelaged cavidans are dready morning the landscape, Why not Prep the lines together instead of tering up more of our wear there could be damage to

my area of power lines - let the power companies consentate on making them safer and accepble to

repair. It surely would be easier to

fig lines are the earls of sevala freet than the White manteine in winter!

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 27 (Ruth Morefield)

See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Alan Carlton Attorney at Law 1601 Gakland Ave. Piedmont CA 94611 (415) 652-8658

January 2, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager BLM 787 North Main St. Suite P Bishon CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

280

These are my comments on the Bishop Resource Management Plan:

(1) The powerline proposal should be deleted. There is no demonstrated need for the corridor, and a proposal that does not include the effect of the entire corridor is ridiculous. (2) There should be a lot core wilderness proposed in the South lnyos, Granite Mountain, and the Bodie Hills. I have been in some of the areas that are not included and know.

their wilderness qualities;
(3) No grazing should be allowed on all BLM lands in the area. Brazing has damaged the resource and amounts to a public subsity of the cattle renchers. The ranchers do not to the control of the control o

will be prevented will do much more damage that the value of any minerals that might be found. (3) All fire suppression except around developed areas should be stopped. Fire is a natural process that ultimately is beneficial. Suppressing fires damages the

land and is expensive.

(6) The plan should include a program for reintroducing Bighorn Sheep in the Inyo Mountains.

Sincerely yours.

alan Cartery

1-12-91

286

787 N. Main St., Ste P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mike Ferguson:

These are comments on the Bishop/E. Sierra draft plan. Please change the plan to correct the following before approving it:

 eliminate the east-west powerline corridor as inappropriate and unnecessary; choose alternate outside Bishop resource area

 there should be more wilderness in the So Inyos, Granite Mt., Bodie Hills and Volcanic Tableland.

 change grazing regulations since area is badly overgrazed and prohibit grazing near streams, marshes and other sensitive and damaged areas.

 protect non-game species of plant and animals; it is good that the plan protects some of the sensitive species - the list should be expanded.

 watershed should remain protected; current changes would promote and make possible certain developments, hydropower and geothermal projects; keep existing withdrawals.

6. support mineral location withdrawals for the entire S. Inyo Mgmnt Area and entire Bodie Hills Mgmnt Area to prevent mines from scarring the land and polluting the water.

7. Don't build a trail in the Slinkard Valley - preserving primitive wilderness and wildlife habitat is $_{\uparrow}$ more important - spend the \$ on that.

 eliminate the bulldozers and roadbuilding as firefighting techniques - they damage wilderness more than fires and current practice is to let natural fires burn.

9. establish Inyo Bristlecone Pine Protective Area

10. Establish right- of-way for existing Inyo Mt. trails

11. establish Bighorn Sheep herd in the Inyos

12. Create mining location withdrawals along Pat Keyes trail

13. Create wild river status for Rough Creek in Bodie Hills area

Thank you for ensuring these provisions in a mgmnt plan!

the Kother

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 28

28) Letters 28a and 28b represent 24 similar letters. These letters were apparently inspired by the Desert Survivors fiver attached to Letter 133. They generally followed the outline of the criticisms listed on the second page of the flyer. Twenty letters opposed the powerline corridor, 20 letters said the wilderness acreage was inadequate, 19 wanted more protection from grazing, 7 felt non-game species were not given enough attention, 15 opposed doing away with the watershed withdrawals, 15 wanted large mineral withdrawals in the South Invo and Bodie Hills management areas, 8 were opposed to construction of a trail in Slinkard Valley, 17 were against full fire suppression using bulldozers, 5 encouraged establishment of a bristlecone pine protective area, 5 supported access rights-ofway for existing trails in the Inyo Mountains, 7 want a bighorn sheep herd established in the Inyos, 3 supported mineral withdrawals along the Pat Keyes Trail, and 5 support wild river status for Rough Creek. In addition, one letter said grazing should be eliminated entirely, one wanted the Slinkard Valley trail built, one wanted more ACECs, one wanted no mini-hydro or geothermal development, and one wanted more emphasis on threatened, endangered and sensitive species. The authors of these letters are listed in Table 5-1. For a response to most of their concerns, see our response to Letter 98 which is from the president of Desert Survivors.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 16063
5AN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

L7619(WR-RP) December 20, 1990

Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Bishop Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, Bishop, California

From: ద్రోబోడీ Associate Regional Director, Resource Management and Planning, Western Region

Subject: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Invo and Mono Counties, California (DES-90/24)

We have reviewed the subject plan and environmental statement. Our major concern is with the two National Historic Landmarks, the Bodie Historic District (Mono County) and the Manzanar World War II Japanese Detention Camp (Inyo County), both contained in the Bishoo Resource Area.

National Historic Landmark status is the highest honorary designation that a historic property can statin. Overall, the draft management plan and preferred alternative are commendable for their recognition of the special values of both properties and for proposing measures that would afford these landmarks protection and interpretation-flowery. Bodie is currently threatened with mining exploration and a potential large-scale maring operation within the proposed landmark boundaries and adjustent to the

29-1

With respect to Manzanar, we completed a Study of Alternatives for the area in 1989. Based on this study, legislation to authorize a Manzanar National Historic Site was recently introduced in the House (H.R. 5948). This proposal calls for a historic site of approximately 500 acres, which includes the main camp area. Acquisition of additional adjacent tands by BLM, and their management to preserve the existing natural some, would enhance the historic site proposal by protecting the historic scene and additional historic resources. A copy of the Manzanar study is enclosed for your information.

The Bodie Hilstoric District, located within the Bodie Hills Management Area of the Bishop Resource Area was designated a landmark in 1961. The documentation of the resources and their significance does not meet current standards, and the district lacks a boundary. National Park Service personnel from the Western

2

Regional Office are currently revising the documentation for the landmark and developing a landmark boundary. The proposed landmark boundary includes approximately 2,740 acres of BLM land; activities related to the documentation project are being coordinated with the BLM State and Area offices.

- 27-2 The preferred alternative appropriately includes designation of the Bodie Bowl as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACCC). Bodie's status as a National Historic Landmark and its historic, srcheological, and landscape values are not consistently recognized froughout the drift management plan, however. We believe that the protection afforded Bodie's landmark values should be consistent with, and greater than, the protection provided to other cultural resources within the Resource Bodie Hills Management. Area therefore are more consistent with protection of Bodie's NHL values than those of the Preferred Alternative, Minneral withdrawals on
- 27-3 Bodie's NHL values then those of the Preferred Alternative. Mineral withdrawals on BIM land in the Bodie Bowk, proposed under Alternative 3 but not under the Preferred Alternative, would be consistent with mineral withdrawals understen to preferred Alternative. Realizing that valid existing mining claims exist throughout most or all of BLM's land within and around the National Historic Landmark, a policy is nevertheless needed to withdraw from mineral entry what can be withdrawn at present and as claims lapse. Restrictions on mining activates on valid oddsting values or also essential to protect Bodie's cultural resources and Nation Canadospoulous.
- 29-10 Statements in portions of the draft management plan are inconsistent as to how mineral withdrawals and restrictions on mining activities in the Bodie Bowl would affect the historic landscape and visual resource, and in some cases are misleading as to the level of protection these measures would provide. Mineral withdrawals and mining restrictions would apply only to BLM property, whereas most of the recent mineral exploration has occurred on private patiented land. It should be made clear mineral exploration has occurred on private patiented land. It should be made clear even with BLM mineral withdrawals and/or restrictions, significant degradation of the landmark will no doubt occur and the visual resource with be adversely affected.

Other comments on specific parts of the draft management plan and EIS follow.

- 27-5 Pages 65-66: The 'Decisions' and 'Support Needs' within Alternative 4 in the Bodie Hills Management Area should recognize that actions affecting the National Historic Landmark must comply with Sections 105 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which may provide more protection than the ELPMA requirement to avoid unnecessary and undue degradation. The list of objectives for the Bodie Bowl ACEC should specify the protective measures to be taken.
- 29-4 Page 120: The draft plan currently states that BLM intends to "specially manage" lands surrounding Bodie that are within observation of the state park. Special management within the Bodie Bowl SRMA should be extended to BLM lands

29-4 surrounding Bodie that are visible from the scenic byways identified in the draft management plan, including the Gelger Grade and Bodie Road. This section also should note Bodie's NHL status and historic landscape values.

3

- Page 149-151: The discussion of the Bodie Hills Management Area should record and the Bodie Shill Listatus and the need for special protection. Record damage (within the past 20 years) has occurred to historic sites and artifacts within the proposed NHL boundary due to grazing and construction of structures, fences, water control structures, etc. This section should note that the landforms and structures created through historic mining activities which damaged strams through water diversion, channelization, and creation of a tailings pond, are now considered part of the historic landscape and contributing features to the NHL.
- 27-80 202: We disagree that mining activities outside of and adjacent to Bodie would have minor negative impacts on historic structures and that most impacts could be avoided or mitigated within specific project proposals. We agree that there would be a severe negative impact upon the historic landscape and setting and that projects will need to be designed with special care to avoid significant negative impact upon the projects will need to be designed with special care to avoid significant negative impacts. There are a large number of structures and countless archeological sites and artifacts scattered on private and BLM lands surrounding the State Park which have been supported by large-scale mining exportant and/or operations. An hard project in the properties on individual sites may be possible, nowever the overall effects of a large-scale mining operation on the historic landscape could not be avoided or easily mining appreciation.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on your draft plan and environmental impact statement.

J. R. Huddletin, acty

Enclosure

cc: (w/o enc.)

Ann Huston, Branch of Preservation Assistance, Division of National Register Programs, Western Region

Chief, Environmental Quality Division, National Park Service

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 29 (National Park Service)

- 29-1) Thank you for providing us with a copy of your Manzanar study. Our preferred alternative calls for BLM acquisition of the Manzanar historic site. If the National Park Service is unsuccessful in its bid to acquire this property, BLM acquisition may be a fall-back position. We believe BLM management of this site could be more cost effective than NPS management, due to our established presence in the Owens Valley.
- 29-2) The decisions affecting the town of Bodie and the National Landmark have been rewritten in the final to clarify this; please see Chapter 2. The protection which will be afforded Bodie is appreciably greater than that afforded any other cultural resource within the Resource Area. See general Bodie response (o.5-5) for an overall discussion of this question.
- 29-3.4) See general responses on minerals (p.5-13) and on Bodie.
- 29-5) Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act are federal law which is adhered to for all Bureau actions, and is therefore a given. The general policy statements in Chapter 1 include a reference to Section 106, and have been modified to include a reference to Section 110.

The decisions for the Bodie Bowl have been rewritten to clarify the objectives. Specific guidelines and standards to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the Historic Landmark, as proposed in the support needs section, will be developed in a separate step after this plan is completed. Please see general Bodie response for more detail.

29-6) The Bureau considers the resource values in the Bodie Bowl to be the most significant in the Bodie Hills Management Area. Although the values outside the Bowl are less significant, the Bureau recognizes the management importance of the travel corridors to Bodie State Park (see the draft RMP, chapter 3, pp.149-151). Subsequently, the Bureau increased its visual resources management of viewsheds along all major roads: Bodie Road, Geiger Grade, Cottomwood Canyon Road, and the Aurora Road. The viewsheds have been designated as VRM class II under the preferred alternative. Additionally, vehicle use will be limited to designated routes and trails throughout the entire management area. Wildlife habitat and watershed enhancement will augment protection throughout the management area. For further information, please see general Bodie response. Historic landscape values will be described in the ucocmino ACEC plan.

- 29-7) An errata section for chapter 3 of the draft ElS is found in Appendix 6 of this document. It includes a discussion of existing conditions within the proposed NHL boundary. The Bureau recognizes that features resulting from historic damage to Bodie Creek are important to the historic landscape of the area. We have no plans to physically modify these features. However, Bodie Creek will be allowed to respond to natural stream restoration processes.
- 29-8) We cannot predict what mitigation measures would be needed for a mining project adjacent to Bodie because we have not yet received a specific mining proposal from Galactic or any other mining operator. When a plan of operation is received we will prepare an EA or EIS to evaluate specific impacts to all resources. Any mitigation measures will be formulated in consultation with Mono County, the National Park Service and all other affected parties.

In general, we can foresee some possible mitigation measures. Visual impacts could be reduced by limiting operations to times when the Park was closed. Impacts to structures could be mitigated by carefully engineered drilling and blasting programs that concentrate energy in the mining area and minimize the energy directed toward the structures. Special stipulations for dust and noise emissions could keep these at acceptable levels.

It may be that open pit mining in the Bodie Bowl is incompatible with protection of historic resources. In that case it may be necessary to purchase the mining properties from the claimants at a fair market value.

Orange County Phistorical Society P. O. Box 10984 Sonto Ann. CA 92702 (114) 353-3915

January 7, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager United States Bureau of Land Hanagement 787 N. Main Street Suite P

Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

30 #

I and other members of the Grange County Conservancy are writing to express our concerns about the present threat to Botis, california posed by the intended open-pit mining operations of Gelatic Religious of the dett Resource Management Plan and Muricomnetal Impact Statement for deather Signification of the State of the State of the State of the State of State

Although Conservancy members are situated in another county, we are concerned with the continual destruction of historic and cultural sites throughout the State of California. Bodie is not only a Sational Historic Landmark but the State's best preserved and most authentic ghost town. A large number of Orange County Historical Society members have also wisited and immemsely enjoyed Bodie.

We ask that Bodie State Historic Park be fully preserved so that future generations can enjoy the site for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Debora Richey Vice-Chair

Orange County Conservancy

Mike Ferguson Area Manager BLM 787 N. Main Street Su. P Bishon. CA. 93514

Dear Mr. Furguson:

1/14/91

VAN 17 199

306

I am aware that there are proposals for large scale mining developments in the vicinity of Bodie. I have also been informed that the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is still open for public comment.

Bodie is a place of special meaning to me. My grandfather freighted ore from there just after the turn of the century. The thold other members of my family were in Bodie of and on as well as at Denny and Convict Lake. I visited Bodie twice, once in the late 1950s, and again in 1965. This past November I recognized Bodie in a flight from Salt Lake City to San Francisco. It was interesting to reflect on the 50 years reveneented by this latest encountry.

I have not read the RMP/RIS, but in light of interest from the mining industry in this district, I fear that the history values of Bodie and the surrounding resources, must be addressed in an aggressive fashion by the BLM. This could mean limiting the mount and scale of mining activity. That is a very difficult, if not impossible approach, given the constraints of the 1872 Mining Law and the past record of the BLM in such matters. In view of that the only meaningful protection that can be given is the withdrawal from mineral entry of the remaining public lands. In addition, there should be a priority for acquisition through trust, exchange or purchase, of lands identified as significant parcels meassary to protect the historic and natural integrity of the Bodie area.

The paradox of Bodie, found as a mining community, and threatened as a sacrifice area for a few tons of gold bullion should not be allowed to play out to the bitter end. Its significance to California and the nation can only be realized through its protection, not by the bars and neck chains it could produce.

Please keep me informed, and forward the final documents when released.

109 N. Broadway Bozeman, MT. 59715 January 3, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Suite P 787 N. Main Street Bishop, Ca. 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

30c

We strongly urge the BLM to include the protection of the historic ghost town of Bodie in its Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the eastern Sierra.

We are alarsed at the possibility of mining — especially open pit mining — on land near the fragile old structures of Bodie. We have seen what has happened to Tuccarora. New-ada, where such activity has been allowed. Please don't let this happen to a state and national treasure like Bodie, which is featured in the newly-published "Satishonders" which is featured in the newly-published "Satishonders' pit newly-published that the property of the published by the published that the published has been also been als

Bodie is an important part of our Mestern heritage. It is meant to be approciated and enjoyed by us and generations to come in a serene setting, not as the adjunct of a huge noisy, vibrating, polluting, traffic-making and environmentally destructive mining operation.

As Westerners who cherish our history and heritage, we ask you to listen to us and many others like us: Help preserve Bodie. Call for a complete withdrawal of mineral activity in the area around this fragile ghost town.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Heil

Joan Heil

Walter R. Heil P.O. Box 702 Yerington, Ny. 89447

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 30

- 30) Letters 30a, 30b and 30c represent 318 letters similar to those shown on this and the following page. The letters address protection and preservation of Bodie, and concern that mineral extraction, etc. will destroy or adversely affect the site. These letters can be summarized as follows:
 - 1) There were 117 comments, including a petition with 15 signatures, that the primary goal of the RMP should be to preserve and protect Bodie. The concerns expressed were for the historical and cultural values, including both structures and historic setting, and the value of preservation for future generations; the atmosphere of a ghost town, the best preserved example of a historic mining town in the western U.S.; and the solitude. The total may be best expressed as the "Bodie experience."
 - 2) There were 20 comments suggesting that no mineral extraction, exploration or activity of any kind should be allowed in the area because of the value of Bodie and the need to preserve it.
 - 3) There were 218 comments that a mineral withdrawal be made of the entire Bodie area (and a couple mentioned the entire Bodie Mountain management area). They felt that this was either the best way to protect Bodie, or a necessary adjunct to other proposed decisions.
 - 4) One commentor thought that mining would be acceptable if out of sight of Bodie, no sounds would be heard in Bodie, and haul roads were built so that they would not be seen from Bodie.
 - There were 8 comments expressing concern that vibration from heavy equipment or blasting would damage structures at Bodie.

- 6) There were 5 comments which mentioned the damage caused by mining at sites such as Jamestown, Aurora, and Beatty.
- 7) There were 14 comments which urged us to consider the long term impacts and needs of the area, not just the short term effects. Specific concerns were that mining would come in, irreparably damage the area, and be gone, while the major economy of the area is based on tourism. They view the long term benefits of Bodie as a tourist attraction to far outweigh the short term benefits from any mining activity.
- 8) There were 14 comments opposed to allowing any foreign owned company to come in and destroy a valuable cultural resource such as Bodie.
- 9) There were 9 comments expressing concerns for the environment if mining were allowed in the area. The three issues raised were about impacts to threatened and endangered and other wildlife species' habitat; the dangers of cyanide leach ponds to wildlife, especially migratory waterfowt; and the problem of mining waste.
- There was one request that we expand the boundary of the National Historic Landmark.
- 11) There was one comment expressing worry that development of a mining operation, with attendant facilities for workers and their families, would result in many more people wandering around the area and more vandalism to the historic sites and arilfacts.

RESPONSE:

1) The primary goal of management within the Bodie Mountain Management Area is preservation and protection of Bodie. The BLM considers the National Historic Landmark to be of great importance. Several of the decisions have been rewritten to more clearly reflect this intent. Examples are designation of the Bodie Bowl as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC: this would require a plan of operations be submitted for any proposed mining activity), and the decision to develop limits of acceptable change to the historic landscape which <u>all projects must meet</u>, be they related to mining, recreation, wildlife or other use.

- 2) The Mining Law of 1872 and BLM mining regulations give certain rights to holders of valid mining claims. We can impose environmental restrictions in some cases. By establishing an ACEC in the area and defining limits of acceptable change which must be met by all proposed projects, we intend to manage the area in a manner which will protect Bodie and the National Historic Landmark. The final RMP includes a mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl; see Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).
- A mineral withdrawal does not affect the valid existing claims in the Bodie area. Mineral explorations and development may still proceed.
- 4) Comment noted.
- 5) We have no exact understanding at this time of potential effects on Bodie of blasting or heavy equipment use. This is one area which will be addressed in establishing the limits of acceptable change criteria.
- 6) Comments noted.
- 7) Any activity, mining or otherwise, allowed in the area would be required to meet certain standards to be developed as "limits of acceptable change." Additionally, any proposed mining operation would be required to prepare a reclamation plan and submit a bond prior to beginning the operation. Future use of the site, as well as preservation of the existing values, would be considered.
- 8) Comments noted.

- 9) See the response to number 7 above. Additional environmental restrictions would be imposed to guard against any environmental damage. Cyanide leach ponds can be covered in a manner so that migratory waterfowl and other animals cannot gain access to them. T & E species habitat is a vital concern, and any approved mining operation would have built in mitigation measures required so that there would be no net loss of habitat or negative effect upon the species.
- 10) The boundary issue is being studied and will be determined by the National Park Service. There will likely be a larger area within the new boundary than the 500 acres currently described in the original National Historic Landmark designation.
- 11) This is a potential problem. However, any operation meeting the limits of acceptable change criteria would most likely have housing for workers located a considerable distance from the site.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO P. O. Box 715. Bridgeport. California 93517

NAMOY WELLS, Clerk of the Board (618) 832-7911, Ext. 215

January 19, 1991

Michael A. Perguson, Area Manager Sureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan and EIS Comments

Dear Mike:

The County of Mono appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMF) and Environmental Impact Satement (RES). You and your staff should be commented between the comprehensive yet concise document. Our attached comments focus primarily on the consistency of the RMF (County planning policies and community planning efforts currently underway.

Questions concerning our comments should be directed to our Planning Director Scott Burns.

Sincerely

DANIEL R. PARANICK

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors County of Mono

DRP/nw

Enclosures



MONO COUNTY RMP COMMENTS

GENERAL COMMENTS

- 31-1 Mono County supports the document's position that land exchanges should occur on a willing seller basis. Since nearly 90% of Mono County is federally owned, a policy should be added that land acquisitions/deposals should not result in a net loss of private land in individual management areas, and shall not result in a net loss of land within Mono County. We also support so that the property of the state of the
- result from lifting the withdrawal status.

 31-3 We recommend adding a policy that land disposals for community or local government purposes that are identified in
 - local general plan documents be given priority consideration.

 The computer mapping capabilities developed as part of your planning process will be an asset in the implementation and control of the con

should include a discussion of the potential impacts that could

- 31-4 The BLM's efforts to solicit local input for the RMP should be commended. The County requests that these efforts continue during the development of the Final RMP.
 - The County supports the Preferred Alternative's intent to resolve issues in a balanced manner and provide for the development of resources while protecting or enhancing environmental values. The following comments focus on the Preferred Alternative decisions.

COLEVILLE MANAGEMENT AREA

31-9A The Preferred Alternative proposes acquiring 980 acres of private land west of Highway 385 in the Walker/Coleville area, and disposing of BLM land at the Walker Landfill and the Tolyabe Indian Health Clinic. The Antelope Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) has taken a position that no net loss of private lands should result from BLM acquisitions in the valley. The RPAC recommends the area south of the landfill and cast of Eastside Lane as appropriate for additional BLM disposals.

- The RPAC otherwise concurs with the management theme, decisions, support needs, and rationale of the Preferred Alternative for the Coleville Management Area.
- 31-5 A policy should be added that calls for BLM to cooperate with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District in the development of a water management and recreation plan for the Topaz Reservoir.

BRIDGEPORT VALLEY

- 31-6 The Bridgeport Regional Planning Advisory Committee recommends that the BIM not dispose of lands for community expansion. Rather, the RPAC recommends that the BIM acquire the property of the state of the st
- 31-7 The County suggests that a policy be added proposing that the BLM work with Mono County in developing a Special Area Management Plan for wetland areas in the Bridgeport Valley, as well as other wetland areas of common concern. This planning process may identify possible BLM lands suitable for wetlands and the process may identify possible BLM lands suitable for wetland and banking purposes could read disposals for wetland related land banking purposes could read disposals for wetland related
 - The County supports the policy of enhancing dispersed recreation opportunities in the Bridgeport Area, and the support needs of acquiring access around Bridgeport Reservoir and developing interpretive facilities at waterfowl areas in Sections 18 and 19.
- The County supports designating the Conway Summit Area as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in order to protect scenery and enhance dispersed recreation: we also support maintaining the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC.
- 31-8 A policy should be added that calls for BLM to cooperate with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District in the development of a water management and recreation plan for the Bridgeport Reservoir.

BODIE HILLS MANAGEMENT AREA

31-9

31-10

31-11

31-12

 The County supports retaining Bodie's historic integrity (page 49), however the document should clarify several apparent inconsistencies regarding the management of Bodie. Specifically:

on page 120 the document identifies as a major issue "the potential development of an open pit gold mine near Bodie Bluff. Present day mining operations of this magnitude would be incompatible with the overall objectives of the area." This statement seems to conflict with the reasonable foresceable scenario that is discussed under the Preferred Alternative, which anticipates development of "the Bodie-Galactic Project'ingag 180). The document should clarify whether mining in the Bodie vicinity is interested in the compatibility issue since we are in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report for a mining exploration project at Bodie.

In conversations with BLM personnel, we have been informed that the visual resource management (VRM) objective for Bodie Bowl and the state of the State of the Comment. It was pointed out that the VRM of the dark would be modified to emphasize the historical character of the landscape, rather than the natural undisturbed environment. The County supports clarification of the visual policies for the Bodie Bowl.

The actual extent of the Bodie Bowl should be clarified in the document. The RMP maps of the area appear to conflict with the Bodie Bowl area defined by the State Parks in their Bodie Resource Management Plan. The State Parks Plan (Figure 2) shows the Bodie Bowl area to be applicantly smaller than the area Illustrated in the

The policy on page 65 proposing disposal of two acres of BLM land for residential expansion should be clarifled. In viewing the Lands and Minerals Map for Alternative 4, it viewing the Lands and Minerals Map for Alternative 4, it viewing ACEC. The County General Plan has not designated this area for residential use, nor is the area proposed for residential use, nor is the area proposed for residential uses in our draft general plan update. The rational for the proposed disposal should be applied to the country of the proposed of the ACEC, SIMA.

31-/3 The standards and guidelined that will be used to determine when unnecessary and undue degradation occurs to the National Landmark should be included in the

- The County supports the policy allowing fuelwood and Christmas tree harvesting.
- We recommend that a policy be added that calls for the BLM to cooperate with Mono County in planning efforts in the Bodie area, including regulating mining activity and reclamation.
 - We support prohibiting grazing on the Copper Mountain allotment to reduce conflicts with wildlife. The removal of grazing from this area is consistent with the mitigation measures adopted by Mono County for the Conway Ranch Specific Plan.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREA

- 31-15 A policy should be added that calls for the BLM to work with local planning groups to identify potential land disposal areas. No net loss of private lands should occur sa a result of BLM land acquisitions in the Mono Basin portion of the Granite Mountain area.
 - The County supports the policy of developing an interpretive plan highlighting historic, wildlife, scenic, and geologic values focusing on the Mono Basin Scenic Area/Bodie travel corridor.
 - The County supports the policy allowing fuelwood and Christmas tree harvesting in the Granite Mountain Area.

LONG VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

31-tk

The RMP calls for acquiring 80 acres of land near the McGec Creek and Long Valley community areas for deer habitat pursess. appears that these areas are also situated in potential areas are also situated in acquisitions on a willing seller basis. The County supports these acquisitions on a willing seller basis of consoline range value acreage amount be made available for support of the BLM to work with local planning groups to dentify potential land disposals outside of avalanche areas for community expansion purposes in the Long Valley area.

- The County appreciates the policy calling for consistency with the Mammoth/June Lake Airport Land Use Plan.
- The County concurs that there is a tremendous potential to enhance recreation opportunities and dramatically increase visitor use in the Long Vailey area. We support the policies for an activity plan for hot springs management, interpretation of geologic features, mountain bike trail development, dispersed camping and other recreation. The management theme of enhancing withdiff enhalitat, scenic values, and other contractions of the contraction o

BENTON MANAGEMENT AREA

31-17

- We support the numerous land disposals identified in the Benton, Hammil, and Challant Valleys for residential expansion, community purposes and agricultural use. The 5,382 acres proposed for disposal appear to be consistent with the views of the Trt-Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee.
- 31-16 The RMP should include a discussion of possible impacts to private land users caused by the development of new habitat for the Owens pupilish, Owens speckled dace, and Owens tut chub. It appears that some of the sites proposed for habitat development are near private lands that could be affected by the restrictive management policies of the Endangered Species Act sufficient buffers from private lands to ensure that permitted private land uses will not be affected.
 - We support the policy of developing an interpretive program highlighting the Fish Slough ACEC, pronghorn, geologic values in the Volcanic Tableland, and local cultural values.
 - Mono County supports the Preferred Alternative's recommendation of not designating the Pizona or Queen Valley areas as transmission line corridors.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 31 (Mono County)

- 31-1) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 31-2) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 31-3) Land exchange will be the preferred method of land disposal and acquisition. Priorities will have to be assigned on a case by case basis, depending on the resource values present and the relative public benefits for each exchange proposal.
- 31-4) The efforts have continued throughout the public comment period; and we will continue to make every effort to involve the public in our management of public lands in the future.
- 31-AA) Public review of specific land tenure adjustment proposals will be an important part of the process. It is not likely that any land will be acquired if the land tenure adjustment is opposed by the local community. The land south of the landfill and east of Eastside Lane is not identified for disposal because of its importance as mule deer winter range.
- 31-5) A support need has been added to the final RMP which identifies the Bureau to cooperate with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District in the development of any future recreation plans for Topaz Lake.
- 31-6) The Bureau currently manages an ample amount of contiguous public land along the northeast and west shorelines of Bridgeport Reservoir. Recreation opportunities are currently available on these public lands. The RMP does propose securing access to the west shore to facilitate use in this area. Since we believe that most private land along Bridgeport Reservoir is developed, it would be impractical to purchase these lands from private sellers. Our proposed disposals are intended to improve the local economy and meet comunity needs. We have, however, added a support need to the final RMP which directs the Bureau to cooperate with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District in developing future recreation management around the reservoir.

- 31-7) A support need has been added to the proposed action for the Bridgeport Management Area directing the BLM to cooperate with Mono County on management of wetland areas of common concern.
- 31-8) A support need has been added to the final RMP which directs the Bureau to cooperate with Mono County and the Walker River Irrigation District in the development of any future recreation plans for Bridgeport Reservoir.
- 31-9) See general responses for minerals (p.5-13) and for Bodie (p.5-5). Also see response 29-8.
- 31-10) Thank you for your comment; it has been noted and considered. The final RMP will clarify visual resource management policies for the Bodie Bowl, Please see general Bodie response.
- 31-11) The extent of the Bodie Bowl was agreed upon between BLM and California Parks and Recreation in their Cooperative Agreement dated 1983. The RMP maps are in accordance with that agreement.
- 31-12) Land disposals in the Bodie Management Area have been clarified in the final RIMP/EIS. The two-acre parcel for residential expansion is near Bridgeport (adjacent to disposal proposed in the Bridgeport Management Area). The Bodie cemetery has been identified for addition to Bodie State Park. This 40-acre parcel is presently under Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) lease to the state and can be patented under the R&PP act.
- 31-13) Developing standards and guidelines to determine when unnecessary and undue degradation occurs is a step which will be taken after completion of the RMP. It will require additional public input and technical expertise which is not available at this office, nor could it be completed within the time frames required for this document.
- 31-14) All plans of operations and notices for mining received by BLM will be evaluated concurrently with Mono County as per the stigulations in the recently-adopted MOU for mining.

- 31-15) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 31-16) Lands have not been identified for disposal near Long Valley communities because of the importance of the land for deer habitat.
- 31-17) In alternative 3 an ACEC was proposed (see p.72 of the draft RNMP) in the northeast portion of the Long Valley management area. This decision was dropped in the proposed action. Yearlong protection management and enhancement or development of new habitat for sensitive or listed species are now decisions in the proposed action. These decisions, along with those concerning DPC goals, potential acquisition of important wildlife habitat, and seasonal and yearlong protection of other habitats should provide the intensive management actions necessary for implementing the management there.
- 31-18) The development of new habitat at Willow Creek and in section 5 immediately south of Lone Tree Creek could only occur if the BLM were to acquire the private land at either site. The proposed locations at Marble Creek and Section 23 spring are on BLM administered land and are not expected to have any effect on downstream water users in those general areas. The unnamed spring in Section 21 at Milliner Creek is immediately adjacent to an Indian allotment. Any development of new habitat at this location would likely require a cooperative agreement/conservation easement from the allotment holder.



Bridgeport Indian Reservation

TRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517

419-932-7083

January 7, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514-2498

Connegative Agreement for Travertine Hot Springs

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

As Chairman of the Bridgeport Indian Colony, I write this letter to reallism our interest in pursuing a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for special management and protection of the Travertine Hot Springs Area of Bridgeport.

As you know, we are proposing that our traditions and culture be given priority consideration for the development and management of the Hot Springs Area. We are highly interested in preserving this area as an intrinsic part of our culture and traditions, yet we want to be able to sustain ourselves economically, socially, and culturally in this isolated geographic

I will be writing a detailed proposal by May 15, 1991, to do a Land and Natural Resource Management Plan for our Tribe. I would like to include as one of the main objectives of this proposal, a cooperative agreement with the BLM. I would like to request an outline of the BLM's involvement and/or a letter of intent that I might include with this proposal.

Attached you will find my comments regarding the BLM's proposed action for Management of the Travertine Hot Springs Area - ACEC. I would also like to request a copy of the separate report for designation of the ACEC.

Thankyou in advance, and should you have questions please call me or (619) 932-7083 Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

Chairman

enclosures

32-1

32-2



DATE:

32-3

Bridgeport Indian Reservation

IDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517

419-932-7003

MEMORANDUM

Bureau of Land Management Art Sam, Chairman, Bridgeport Indian Colony FROM: SUBJECT: Bridgeport Management Area - Proposed Action for ACEC - Travertine Hot Springs Area The BLM's proposed action for special designation of the ACEC is good as these are unique areas deserving special considerations. Although, I'm concerned how this designation may affect our Tribes interest in pursuing a cooperative agreement for special management and protection of the Travertine Hot Springs Area.

Jan. 6, 1991

The proposed withdrawal of the Travertine Hot Springs area from locatable minerals exploration and development is also good.

Another concern that I have is that geothermal leasing is confined 32-4 to only a one (1) mile radius and this closed area can be modified if hydrologic studies show a larger or smaller area would be appropriate to protect the resource. I suggest the entire area is delicately interrelated and living and that only a larger area be appropriate to protect the resources.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 32 (Bridgeport Indian Reservation)

- 32-1) The RMP directs the Bureau to explore cooperative management of the ACEC with Native Americans and other groups. As a part of our RMP implementation effort, the Bureau would work with the Indian reservation to identify mutual concerns and develop a cooperative management agreement to address those concerns.
- 32-2) Under separate cover, a Federal Register notice describing the ACEC designation has been sent to your office.
- 32-3) See response 32-1.
- 32-4) See general response for geothermal (p.5-15), item 2.

John R. Swanson 3400 Edmund Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55406

January 3, 1991

Dear Sirs:

areas-acres

Please accept my <u>comments</u> concerning the <u>Braft Bishop Resource Management Plan and <u>Environmental Impact Statement</u>, <u>Bureau of Land Management</u>, <u>U.S. Department of the</u> <u>Interior</u>.</u>

I am acquainted with the Bishop Resource Area, and continue to agree that this area contains outstanding roadless-wilderness, wildlife-biological and scenic-visual resources of certain Mational significance. As this Resource Area presents under waried and fragile natural attributes that fully benefit man and all life. I, then wish to advise that I oppose the suggested preferred alternative.

As this alternative will destroy wilderness, biological and visual resources. As well as decimate soil, water and air resources.

May I suggest a preservation alternative that will preserve the natural features of this area. With this Bishop Resource Area classified and managed as a National Matural Reserve, and to include no surface or sub-surface activities and developments. So as to fully serve man and all life.

So select each of the following areas, with acres, as a wilderness, and as located on this Bishop Resource Area. With such areas with acres to be added to our National Wilderness Preservation System, as each area-acres possess outstanding wilderness attributes.

Sinkard 7,600 Carson Iceberg 1,970 Masonic Mountains 9,000 Swoot Water 1,300 Bodie 18,200 Bodie Mountains 27,000 Mr. Biedeman 14 800 Norman Meadows 8 500 Walford Springs 14,000 Granite Mountains 56,000 Exclusion 14.600 Benton Range 7 000 White Hountains 12,400 Chidago Canyon 24,000 Fish Slough 21,000 Casa Diablo 7,200 Volcanic Tableland 13,900 Royana (Wheeler Ridge) 5.000 Bishop Creek 1.600 Coyote Southeast 3,600 Crater Mountain 7,300 Painte 8,800 Tinemaha 3.680 Synmes Creek 9,100

3a-2 Monoga Peak 4,000 Southern Inyo 40,800 Cerro Gordo 18,400 Black Canyon 7,000 Laurel-McGeo 113

With the above areas plus additional areas of certain wilderness characteristics, to receive wilderness identification and to include some 570,000 acres to 577,500 acres.

To include streams in our National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. With the following streams to be initially added to this River's System, such as:

Virginia Creek
Dog Creek
Green Creek
Rough Creek
Atastra Creek
Rock Creek
Fish Slough
Hot Creek
Independence Creek
George Creek

To select this resource area as a National Critical Biological Habitat Area so as to aga-4 assure the proper conservation of all biological species including the:

Owens Pup Fish Bald Eagle Owens Tui Chub Peregrine Falcon

Lahontan Cut throat Trout

I wish to advise of my general opposition to the power line corridor proposal (1A).
As such power lines destroy very valuable soil, habitat and visual resources.

Livestock grazing continues to decimate the vital water sheds of this area and must be properly terminated in order to save the plants and soil in this region.

38-6 And mining must be eliminated so as to properly manage the surface and sub-surface resources of this Resource Area.

To fully ban all use of off-road vehicles so as to control noise, air pollution and soil/water destruction.

And to acquire all in holdings, with no disposal of any public lands, so as to properly manage all of our public lands.

For when we save our natural lands and waters;

We Save America-Sincerely, /s/ John R. Swanson RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 33 (John R. Swanson)

- 33-1) Subsurface and surface activities are permitted under the preferred alternative if such actions can be mitigated to ensure that other resources are adequately protected. Mining activities could be approved if they conform to RMP guidelines within the National Natural Reserve. See general response for minerals (p.5-13).
- 33-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 33-3) See response to letter 1.
- 33-4) We appreciate your response. Your concerns have been noted.
- 33-5) The decisions affecting the livestock grazing, DPC goals and Standard Operating Procedures will maintain or improve vegetation condition and reduce many negative effects of livestock grazing. The decisions of the Proposed Action provide for balanced and realistic multiple use for each management area.
- 33-6) BLM has no authority to eliminate mining on public lands except as part of a mineral withdrawal. In the case of mineral withdrawals, claimants have grandfather rights to minerals as a property right.
- Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 33-8) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER (AFSC) EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 93523



Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 M. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/ES) for the Simbon Resource Area. Although we have no specific comments retarding the above document, we would appreciate the opportunity to review all environmental documentation developed agreesing impacts from any proposed transmission line because of the potential for low level flights within the vicinity of the proposed transmission line corridor (maps and information have been previously given to your staff delineating our flight corridors).

If you need any additional information regarding our use within the Bishop Resource Area, please do not hesitate to call myself or Wendy Waiwood at (885) 277-3837.

Sincerely.

ROBERT D. JOHNSTONE Chief, Plans and Policies Division

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 34 (Edwards Air Force Base)

34-1) Impacts to low level military training flights were not analyzed in the corridor study. Since these flights are higher than 200 feet and the transmission line towers would be less than 200, no impacts are anticipated. Although no new corridors are designated, if new transmission line projects are proposed within the Resource Area, we will ensure that the environmental assessment includes analysis of potential impacts on military flights. STEVEN EIGENBERG

1415/1135-7010

January 8, 1991

Mr. Mike Perguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

RE: BLM Draft Resource Management Plan and EIR for the

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

35-1

35-2

35-3

The California State Lands Commission has apprised me of the Bureau of Land Management's draft management pian and environmental impact report for the eastern Sierra. I have been dealing with the Commission over the past three yearscanding vicinity (located in Mono County, California and Mineral County, Newada). My initial review of the draft plan leads me to the conclusion that Bodie and its immediate area could ultimately Management with Espain California and Mineral County.

First, I see Bodie as a significant resource towards experiencing and understanding the eastern Sierra region. Bodie is a teaching tool concerning a very important and pivotal era in California and Nevada history -- the days when pioneer mining acquainted much of the world with the eastern Sierra.

Second, the status of the Bodie town site and general ecology of the area desamd a conservative approach so as to preserve, and not jeopardize, the area. I believe BLM must recognize and sanction this by incorporating provisions in the resource management plan which are consistent with the goal to preserve Bodie and its vicinity.

Third, BLM should include measures within the resource management plan to restrict the types and scale of mining ventures allowed in the Bodie vicinity. Plans which call for open pit mining and utilizing cyanide leaching of ore should be banned from this area.

Fourth, the resource management plan should define an area for a Bodie-Masonic-Aurora Historic Preservation Zone (or district). I would recommend the following boundaries for such a zone:

Mr. Mike Ferguson Bureau of Land Management January 8, 1991 page two

Bodie-Masonic-Aurora Historic Preservation Zone

35-3 Commencing at the junction of HMY 395 and HMY 167, follow seem!

the toute of 395 north to Bridgeport (the city limits of same would be excluded from the zone), proceeding themce along the route of HMY 182 to the Newada border; themce continuing east following the Lyon and Mineral Counties (Newada) line, extend said ilne until it intersects the boundary of the Tolyaber south to the California-Newada state line, thence following the state line to MMY 167, thence follow HMY 395.

Fifth, the BLM plan should encourage both California and
35-4 'vada to identify projects which would restore and/or enhance
historical areas and features within the before recommended
historic preservation zone.

There has been a great deal of attention paid in recent years
to possible large scale commercial sining ventures in the area
immediately adjoining the Bodie town site. From my knowledge of
these proposals. I remain deeply concerned that no short or long
term safequards or remedies have been included for necessarily
immediate vicinity of the mining. Other similar initiatives in
other parts of the country have resulted in significant ecological
damage to the area involved. I do not advocate a ban on all
mining in the Bodie area. I believe that smaller scale mining
using more ecologically sound methods should not be prohibited.
However, open pit mining and cyanide leaching have no place in
be decisive in banning these practices.

I see the development of the management resource plan as a significant opportunity for the Bureau of Land Management to act as a positive long-term influence on the eastern Sierra. Dealing with the one vicinity I have addressed here, BLM can adopt policies and initiatives which can become invaluable throughout the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and recommendations.

Since Joy,
Steve Eigenberg

Encl.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 35 (Steven Eigenberg)

- 35-1,2) See general responses on Bodie (p.5-5) and on minerals (p.5-13).
- 35-3) Study by the National Park Service is currently underway to determine a boundary for the Bodie National Historic Landmark. The concept of a Historic District encompassing Bodie, Masonic, and Aurora has been suggested in the past. However, the distances and the sparsity of historic properties between them make it a very poor candidate for a single historic district.
- 35-4) Management of resources within the Plan area includes working with the State of California and other agencies. Examples include continuing work at Bodie to preserve historic structures, and managing the cemetery (on public lands) as part of the State Park. While we work with other agencies on a regular basis, actions within the State of Nevada, taken by the State of Nevada are outside this Resource Area and beyond the scope of this plan, as are actions on National Forest lands.
- 35-5) The RMP is not a site-specific prescription for mining activities on public lands. The proper short- and long-range safeguards for specific mining proposals will be made at the time of their submission in an EA or EIS for that project. The scale of mining is an important criterion for determining whether or not a project would meet RMP ouidelines.

Riley-Porticis McLae
San Diego, (A 92123
Mr. Michael Fergison
Bishoto Resource Orea Manager
Bureal of Land Management
787 n. Main Sty Ste P
Diskon, CA 93514
Diskey, Cit /33/F
Distance Constant
Dist Mr. Ferguson:
36.1 " We are writing to urge your the support for greater.
protection of reality Simo OLM Lands, especially Alter
nature 3, the natural resource enhancement abturation we
understand however, that there are some changes that need to be
added including the protection of the roadless character of
all fildurer Study Areas not just small pricentages in
addition to the 30,000 acres proposed for withdrawal from
ministral development under Oldenative 3, in hope that all
Bim lands adjacent to 3 odie State Park will be withdrawn
assis range randition throughout the resource area,
The state of the s
out the Duas of Critical Chiloromental Colored region
Tions whiley chied climination + land acquisitions
Just attend contact temperature at the accurations
outlined under Alternative 3; prohibit off road vehicles
in all wilderness study areas, Areas of Olitical Churion-
mental Concern, and other areas where duch vehicles and
other motor have could degrade resources of conflict with
other uses; +, support designation of the tennivers found
"thighte for Wid and Scenie status with the provisions
to weekense the miles of streams which are problemted.
to uncrease the miles of streams which are professed.
Thank you for your consideration
V -
Poley + Patricia Melac

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 36 (Riley and Patricia McRae)

36-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

Please also see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).

We have noted and considered your other comments as support for Alternative 3.

January 4, 1991

3690 Falcon Way Reno, NV 89509

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear sir,

37-1 In a been following several developing situations in the county government and your hishop Resource Management Plan and I am not pleased with the general trend toward stricter land country and several several

37-2 I have gone through your dest deciment and I find it difficult to assess. Wy primary interments are in the opporation and development of mineral resources. Your Preferred Although you led place an added burden of cost and resultatory permitting to the development of any mineral deposit. I also note that the Preferred Alternative would probably adversely affect other land the state of the

Overall, I would have to support Alternative #1 - Continuation of Present Management and not your Preferred Alternative.

Sincerely,

Pture Cue

- 37-1) The preferred alternative reflects a sustainable variety of multiple uses incorporating ecologically sound management principles. Under the preferred alternative, most of the resource area remains open to livestock grazing (81%) and mineral exploration/development (96%). The preferred alternative will improve resource conditions and prevent environmental degradation so that public lands serve as a model for environmentally sound land use management. A stronger emphasis is placed on recreation (including visual resources) than in prior land use plans because the Bureau recognizes the significance of its recreation values and opportunities to the local economy and geographic area. The public supports recreation management for the area and tourism sustains the eastern Sierra economy. Although the preferred alternative emphasizes recreation, it provides flexibility and opportunity to generate benefits for all public land users.
- 37-2) The environmental restrictions cited in the RMP will increase mining costs for some projects. These restrictions are not made with the goal of shutting down mining on public lands, but only to ensure that mining is done in a responsible manner and that the mining origides are adequately reclaimes.

The environmental restrictions may also affect cattleman and OHV users.

See general response on minerals (p.5-13).

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

I am writing in regards to the Bishop Resource Management Plan concerning pulic land use, in paticular the

Inyo Mth's.

My main concern nyour 'proposed Action-South InvoMy main concern nyour 'proposed Action-South Invoport. Needs and the Sait Tram. I have been hiking, photographing and researching the Inyo's since 1985 to the
extent that I obtained employment at the Eastern Cal. Mextend all the heauty and history they encompass.

During my many hikes into the Inyo's, I've photographed and enjoyed many historical and natural sites, unfortunatly some of these sites have been carelessly and wantonly van-delized and destroyed, (the recent attacks on the Salt Tram, and the theft of a old cable holst machine at the Black Eagle Mine) by so called outdoor enthusiasts, and that is why I am concerned about any future plans for the Long John, Pa Reyes, but we have the plans for the Long John Pa Reyes, but when the plans for the Long Long Page 1997. The plans the plans of the Long John Pa Reyes, but when the plans for the Long Long Page 2007. The plans for the Long Long Page 2007. The plans for the Long Long Page 2007. The Long 2007. The Long Page 2007. The Long Page 2007. The Long 2007. The L

yet to be fally documented.

38.7

public on possible recreational opertunities but with this new Manageent Plan I see the Inyo's at a crossroad. For one the Inyo's still harbor important historical sites, mainly mining and Indian, that are seldom visted, some yet to be discovered that need to be photographed and recorded made more videly known and get more use, I gurrantee these sites will be destroyed and lost forever, a good example is the Col. Steven's Cottonwood Canyon Lumber Mill in the Sierra's that dated back to the early 1870's. Once the road to Norsenbee Meadow's was in the mill now more accompanied to the mill tiself.

Second, the natural environment of the Inyo's is very different then the Sierra's. The Inyo's are more wide open with fewer tree's, less water, more prome to erosion use vill blow all over the mountains and last a lot longer in the drier climate. Also the possibility of more off road vehicles traversing the Inyo's will undoubtly mean orive off road to nee what is around the hillside, when a 5 to 10 minute walk would suffice without scaring the hillside. I'm not for closing the existing roads, but some kind of regulations or surveillance of the odder a body so because

38-2 the public is going to be informed of the recreational possibilities in the Inyo's.

38-3

Concerning the Salt Tram. I have been researching and photographing the tram for four years and am very concered for it's survival if more people are made aware of it's existence. I strongly belive special care and thought should go into any plans for the tram. I would be more than happy to assit in any way possible concerning the tram,

please don't hesitate to contact me with any question's.
Of course my own selfish reasons for not alerting the
public to the trail and tram is so I can photograph and
old to hike anymore. As I stated in an earlier letter to
Nr. Pollini, the sad fact is that too many people do not
ofter their arrounding's.

So, if any future plans concerning the four trails and tram are to be made, I would be happy to assist you in any way to meet the demand for more recreational opportunities, while protecting the uniqueness of the Inyo's.

My home phone is 878-2100, leave message, or you can contact me at the Eastern Cal. Museum, M thru F, 9am to 4pm, at 878-2411 and ask operator for the museum.

Sincerely,

Don Becker
P.O. Box 127
Independence, Ca. 93526

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 38 (Don Becker)

- 38-1) We share your concern about cultural resources protection in the Inyo Mountains. Once the area is designated wilderness, the Bureau will prepare a wilderness management plan which would include easement acquisition and management of trails. We would identify potential impacts to cultural resources and take appropriate protective measures.
- 38-2) We concur with your comments and observations. An overall monitoring program including Swansea and Cerro Gordo Roads would be developed to identify resource conflicts and manage visitor use.
- 38-3) Thank you for your comments; they have been noted and documented. Your name has been added to our mailing lists of persons interested in assisting us in visitor use management in the southern linvos.

Alan Siraco 812 A Vermont Street Oakland, California 94610

January 8, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, #P Bishop, California 93514

Re: Bishop Resources Management Plan

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

- 39-1 In a time when we are seeing the crumbling of many commercial and industrial enterprises, it makes more sense to preserve land in a carea, change it for some "use", and then, due to economic stresses, have to leave it unused. Inst't it wiser to establish wilderness study area in order to protect regions from this abuse? But more of them in your secondary complex interconnection of habitats that can exist only naturally. We are not capable of imitating it yet. And by reducing the area that we leave alone we will inevitable simplify the habitat
- There should be no power line corridor running through a wilderness study area. Those of us who hike in the desert already must over-(or muct, for aesthetic reason, remain some areas which do not evidence the construction of such a structure would cause significant disruption of the wisting flore and fauna.
- 39-3 in other areas. Regarding recent restrictions on grazing during certain times of the year in the southern corner of Newada, a supervisor in the last Vegas office of the BLM was recently quoted as saying, 'Ney, you all can't be out there on the same land,' during any last vegas office which was recently supervisor in the Last Vegas office with the same land,' during a saying, 'Ney, you all can't be out there on the same land,' during a saying, 'Ney, you all can't be out there on the same land,' during a saying, 'Ney, you all can't be out the same land,' during a saying the last vegas of the same land,' and the same
- The general message is: Please preserve as much land as possible in a state that is as unsitered as possible so that the planet's resources remain in the planet's resources the planet's resources are all the planet's resources. The planet is the planet's resources the planet is resourced by the planet's resources that it is taken an uncomprehendably long time to achieve. Only the Sureau of Land Management can do this. That is what is so special about the latter of the planet resource planet products' for a long time.

ala Ci

Alan Siraco

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 39 (Alan Siraco)

- 39-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- The southeast corner of the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area includes lands within the Paiute Wilderness Study Area (WSA CA-010-060B). The Bureau has recommended this WSA as not suitable for wilderness designation. Powerline construction, however, could occur only after Congress releases the WSA to multiple use management. Page 49 of the draft RMP states that corridor designation of the north-south DC Intertie will extend 1/4 mile on either side of the line, except between and along WSAs located on the Volcanic Tablelands, where future lines will have to share space on existing facilities unless these WSAs area are released by Congress.
- 39-39) It is BLM policy to manage grazing allotments according to the forage available and other resources within the allotment. Within the Bodile Hills, resource conflicts are being resolved using Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP) and to date six plans have been developed. Twenty-five percent of the Bishop Resource Area acreage is managed with either CRMP's or Allotment Management Plans (AMP). The direction of the RMP is to increase the acreage under Management Plans. Currently 20% of the resource area is not creazed by livestock.

Grazing fees are set annually by the Secretary of the Interior, and livestock operators often contribute monies/labor for construction of range management projects. Through the CRIMPs and AMPs livestock operators are encouraged to take an active role in understanding the resources and to help in the monitoring of these resources.

January 11, 1991

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90-2

40-3

HA-4

Michael Ferguson Bishop Area Resource Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,
Me are residents of Mono county and are responding to the
draft Resource Menagement Plan for BLM land in the Eastern Sierra
that includes Inyo and Mono counties. Though there are some very
positive aspects in the plan, there are some areas that need
druther consideration. I encourage you to support the natural
resource enhancement alternative (Alternative 3) with changes
lessuring the provide more protection to environmentally sensitive
lands.

Alternative 3 proposes to withdraw 30,000 acres of Land from possible sining. BM lands adjacent to Bodie State Historical Park should also be protected from development in order to insure that this historically important landamark is not adversely affected. Only a small portion of the town of Bodie remains stending today and the structures are very fragile. It seems thanking today and the structures are very fragile. It seems distributive not only a bodie twent but, also to the recreational entowant of the unblic.

Off road vehicle use is permitted on almost all of the BLM land. Vehicle use should be restricted in amy seem to be prosect are plants, sensitive habitat, and wildlift and to the prosect are asked to remain on designated roads or trails it is wirtually impossible to monitor 750,000 acres. These vehicles are very destructive and their use should be listed to small designated areas. ORV users are a small portion of the population that uses these lands and they plan should reflect that. The smallers of the population who enjoy the solitude of wilderness that the propulation who enjoy the solitude of wilderness their solowests. The same of the population who enjoy the solitude of wilderness their solowests.

It was difficult to understand the grasing proposals or restrictions in the management plan. Range conditions on all of the BLM land should be assessed to determine which areas are being adversely affected and those which are not. It is well known that overgrasing has megative affects on vegetation and wildlife. By studying the present range conditions, the BLM can make informed decisions that meet the needs of the allotes while restricted in some areas resource. Grasing should be restricted in some areas that have never been crased whould be made.

Wilderness areas need to be protected from further development. A segment of the population visits these lands to

40-4 cont. hite, backpack and enjoy the solitude wilderness sreams provide. These areas should be protected for the public as well as the plant and wildlife communities. The Milderness Study Areas should be planed in protective roadless management until congress can act upon BLM's recommendations. These areas should be designated as wilderness too protect their wild and undisturbed designated as wilderness too protect their wild and undisturbed

In addition to these comments there are many positive aspects to the natural resource enhancement alternative. We support designation of the ten rivers eligible for Wild and Scenic sature and would like to see private lends in the corritor be acquired to increase the protection of the streams. This terrative includes more Areas of Critical Environmental Concern which will protect critical plant and wildlife habitat. Me appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Alan Taylor Shannon Nelson
Shannon Nelson
PO Box 417

Lee Vining, CA 93541

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 40 (Alan Taylor and Shannon Nelson)

- 40-1) Please see general responses on Bodie (p.5-5) and on minerals (p.5-13).
- 40-2) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (b.5-8).
- 40-3) Range conditions are evaluated periodically, particularly those areas that are adversely affected. The allotment management plans we have implemented and those we are working on and plan for the future will deal with those oncerns. The DPC goals, Standard Operating Procedures and allotment specific decisions will contribute to improving range conditions and adversely affected areas.
- 40-4) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

January 13, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager

Pursau of Land Hanagement 737 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I would like to comment on the Draft Biehop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

In the Draft, land west of Independence and the independence Recervation are identified for disposal in Alternative & (Preferred Alternative), but no mention is made of my family's home on Independence Creek. I would like this property identified for disposal

to my family in the Final Plan and E.I.S. People have lived in this home for more than sixty years and my family for over forty years. This is an excellent opportunity to estile the question of land title that has been ongoing for many years.

Also, I am opposed to either Independence Creek or George Creek being designated as Wild and Sconic Rivers.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Mannatt P.O.Box 194 Independence, Ca. 93526 January 15, 1991

Mike Freguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93526

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I would like to comment on the Draft Management Plan and the EIS.

In the Draft, there is land west of Independence and the Independence Reservation that is being identified for disposal in Alternative 4, but the Mannett Family home located on Independence Creek is not even sentioned. The Mannett property for the past forty years. It is my understanding that the home was built in the 1820's. We would like you to include the Mannett home on Independence Creek, and designate it for disposal in the Final Plan and Davironmental Impact Statement. We feel this is an excellent opportunity on soling for many years.

Also, I am opposed to either George Creek or Independence Creek being designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Edward S. Mether

Edmund S. Mether P.D.8ox 208 Independence, CA. 93526 RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 41 (Mannatt trespass)

41) Letters 41a and 41b represent 15 similar letters all urging that BLM land adjacent to the Mannatt property near Independence be slated for disposal to resolve a longstanding unauthorized occupancy. Four of these letters also indicate opposition to Wild and Scenic River status for George and Independence Creeks.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires that public lands be retained in federal ownership, unless it is determined that disposal of a particular parcel will serve the national interest. In light of the resource values present at the site, we do not agree that private ownership of this public land would serve the national interest. Despite the environmental damage that has resulted from unauthorized use of this site for several decades, Independence Creek remains a highly significant natural resource which has been determined to be eliable as a Wild and Scenic River.

The RMP provides for sale of public land to resolve inadvertent occupancy trespass where there has been some question as to the title or public land boundary. However, in this case there has never been any serious question as to the title of the property or boundary of the public land. The land is within a solid block of public land that has been withdrawn from disposal since 1912. The original homestead entry was canceled in 1926. When Louis Mark Mannatt tried to acquire the land in 1950 his application was rejected. He appealed the rejection in 1954. His appeal was denied in 1957 by the Director of BLM and he was informed that his occupancy of the land was a trespass. Over the years, Mr. Mannatt was repeatedly informed that it was not legal for him to live on the public land. Louis Mark Mannatt has now left the site, but his son Robert Mannatt now resides on the property on a part time basis. In 1987 Robert Mannatt was notified that his occupancy of the land was in violation of law. He hired an attorney and filed a Color of Title application which was rejected because the record clearly shows that the Mannatts have always known that they did not have title to the property. Mr. Mannatt appealed the rejection to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and that appeal was denied in 1989.

Though we understand the Mannatte have occupied the site for over 40 years and they have an emotional tie to the property, we do not believe that it would be in the best national interest to get rid of these important public lands just to authorize a long-term willful trespass.

41-2) The draft RMP Identifies Independence and George Creeks as eligible to be studied for potential designation as a wild and scenic river segment. Both creeks met the eligibility criteria described in Chapter 1 and Appendix 2 of the draft RMP. No new information has been provided to change the eligibility determinations. The upcoming studies for all eligible creeks will consider supporting and opposing points of view. The studies are scheduled to begin within the next two years.

BRISTLECONE . CHAPTER

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA



P.O. Box 330 Lone Pine CA, 93545 January 12, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area, BLM 787 N. Main St. Suite P Bishop CA, 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

This letter is our Chapter's review of the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement issued in September 1990.

We will begin with neveral broad remarks and follow with specific detailed page by page comments and suggestions. Please realize that our comments are respectation oriented. Other persons and groups are far better qualified to comment upon mining, recreation, birds and animals, etc. (Nowerer, having said this we would offer the admonition (in-order as it affects regetation)) that your previous wilderness recommendations were vocfully inndequate. For Shame

First, the arrangement of the effect each alternate would have upon specific impacts as handled in Chapter 4 was helpful. This is a unique method of comparing the impacts. If one is interented in a subject, such as regetation or grazing, it is easy to see the effect each alternate would have upon each interest. This seems more sensible than the usual vay of repeatedly discussing over and over the impacts upon the soweral areas of interest separately under each alternate.

Second, we believe that the entire subject of new power corridors should be handled in a separate RIS. There are many details as to justification; details of other routes through a bono lake corridor, or the Las Yegas corridor, or no new lines; comparative cost analyses; power conservation (rationing); power alternates (solar panels, wind generation farms, more hydrogeneration, solar mirror-atesm plants, etc.).

45-1

This entire subject has barely been touched in this presentation. Nuch more needs to be done before the public can effectively make intelligent recommendations. As it now stands we're forced to recommend the Queen Valley Alternative as it appears to offer the least damage to sensitive vegetation (although it may adversely affect mule deer, people in the Benton area, the view shed, and have wilderness study area corridor prohlens in the tablelands).

45-1

cont.

45-2

45-3

45-4

45-5

Thirdly, as regards the subject of fire suppression, the less, in general, the better. We recognize that the public in general regards fire as anathema. But fire is "natural", particularly when lightningstarted. True, we would advocate suppresssion in riparian areas as they are unique in an arid area. But, otherwise, let it burn. This is nature's way. Sure, some deer forage is temporarily lost; some livestock forage is temporarily lost, but succession is still live and well. In time it will all come back. So we recommend that, in general, you let fires burn.

Fourthly, vegetation manipulation to benefit the range should not be draconian -- such as herbicides, chaining, crested wheatgrass, etc. Some use of fire to reduce blackbrush, some seeding with natives, maybe, but, again, let nature take its course,

We note with some surprize that some environmental matters would receive better treatment under the "No Action" Alternative than under the "Preferred Alternative". Is this because of additional financing required by the "Preferred"? Which brings up the question as to what your emphasis will be on the overall program if funding is not enough to cover the entire program. Some contingency plan should be ready which will help guide your decisions as to where the money you get will so and what actions will be postponed. We would like to know what your ideas are on this

We would like to have seen more detail in your discussion about how grazing will be regulated. It is awkward to have to refer to 10year old analyses to see how they dovetail into this plan. A matter which has the profound effect upon the environment that grazing does ahould have gottn better coverage.

Your use of the concept of Desired Plant Communities is somewhat 45-6 of a puzzle. This is not in any way a natural climax stage or most probably would not be. It sounds as if you are defining what you want a plant community to be and will strive to achieve it. This may or may not be a "natural" plant assemblage, but one that "fits" BLM's idea of what will ultimately be the most "usefull" in the long run. We don't like it -- it sounds suspect -- too manipulative. Please use the tried and true natural plant communities concept and not an artificially contrived concept.

We support your actions to further the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. Lastly, we are not at all in favor of your proposal to shandon the 45-7 watershed withdrawal status of some 600,000 acres of now protected lands. We think that this would be a grave mistake and could only result in its ultimate environmental deterioration through land transfers, increased use of one kind or another, etc. We are quite satisfied with its present status and please abandon your revocation proposal.

> As you might suspect we would much prefer to see you adopt the third Alternative - Natural Resources Enhancement, and so recommend. However, our comments from here on are made in reference to your Preferred Alternative as we suspect that your mind is already made up to adopt it!

Page 26 -- Item 11 is noted.

Page 50 - Thank you for -recognizing that preservation of habitats is what saves sensitive and T&E species; for maintaining 95% of 10-yr. mean monthly stream flow; and for prohibiting livestock drift outside an allotment.

Instead of 60% average allotment-wide utilization, this 45-8 should be maximum, otherwise some areas may be far over-utilized.

> Page 51 - Thank you for prohibiting ground water pumping at levels which would interfere with DPC goals.

Page 56 -- Thank you for protecting old growth timber stands, and for Page 57 -- prohibiting timber harvesting in old growth areas.

Dead wood collection must always apply to dead and down

45-9 How do you increase recreational use and decrease ad-

45-10 verse impacts?

> Cattle will always adversely affect water quality in and near recreational areas. Cattle and recreation do not mix!

	Page 61 Thank you for Conway Summit and Traverting Hot Springs
	ACECs.
	Page 65 Thank you for planning to stabilize and restore se-
	lected stream channels and for
	planning to designate Bodie Bowl ACEC.
	Page 70 Thank you for protecting Jeffrey Pine at Dry Creek.
	Page 77 Thank you for prohibiting livestock grazing in your
	Fish Slough allotment.
ı	Fuelwood harvesting must be down if dead.
٠	Page 82 Thank you for yearlong protection of the Alabama Hills
	and for the proposal to acquire 1106 acres of Hogback Creek and 240
٠,	acres of Lubkin Creek areas.

Page 86 Thank you for Keynot Peak ACE	but extend it southerly
to include the New York Butte bristlecone area	too.
Where is there fish habitat in	this Management Area?!!
This is not shown in Table 3-4 on page 133.	
We agree that easements should	be acquired for access

45-11

45-12

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45-17

45-18

We agree that easements should be acquired for access to the hiking trailheads. It is no good to have to trespass on private lands to get to these public trails.

Page 89 -- Thank you for fencing Cartago, Cottonwood and Braley Creeks to exclude livestock, and for maintaining the exclosure on Ash Creek.

Page 91.— Item 13. It is easier to may that all disturbed areas vill be revegetated them to do it. How vill this be successfully accomplished in a denert climate on poor soils with intolerant species?

Page 95.— <u>Severe</u> use of forage should not be presitted on riparian, assen and medow acreace. Resulate or fence.

aspen and meastow accesse. Regulate or tence.

Page 97 — 305 degradation of semsitive species areas is too much.

Page 107 — Why bother to mention that 20% of the locateable and some of the saleable minorals will not be developed due to environmental restrictions if 100% of them cannot be developed in conformance with VEM II requiremental Same idea on page 111.

Page 120 -- Shooting should be prohibited in the Alabama Hills SRMA.

	Page 132 — Vegetative Communities of Special Concern should include
45-19	a description of Thermal Marsh (unique plant assemblage), Alkali Marsh,
	Alkali meadow, and Alkali Sink Scrub. Except for the first two, these
	are significant acreages and should not be ignored. These four plant
	communities should also be included in and described in your Desired
	Plant Communities beginning on page 239.
115 24	The decline in vegetative and wildlife habitat con-
45-20	ditions in the Bridgeport MA in only 8 years is cataclysmic! What hap-
	pened and what will you do about it, fence the areas?
	Page 134 - The total Federal acres in Table 3-5 for the Bodie-
45-21	Colvill EIS area is 226,336; in Table 3-7 it is 227,068. Where is the
	missing 732 acreage?
	The total acreage in Table 3-6 is 433,472 and for Table
	3-7 is 538,232 in the Benton-Owens Valley EIS area. Where is the missing
	114,760 acreage?
	The decradation of Riparian habitat is unacceptable.

	ine degradation of Kiparian habitat is unacceptable.
5-22	This must be improved to reflect a responsible management approach to
	this important habitat.
	Page 135 - Spring associated wetlands must also be protected by
	fencing, if necessary, to allow them to realize their proper potential
	in arid country. Geothermal development must be regulated to minimize

disturbance of thermal marshes.

Page 136 — Each Threatemed and Endangered species needs a management plan for its protection. Continued overgrazing by livestock during

[flowering and seed set will eventually bring about extirpation.]

45-25

grazing allotnents should eventually be in the I category so that the resource is more effectively protected from overgrazing. High quality habitat has a higher carrying capacity for both vididife and livestock. Short-terms cutable kin stocking to alloy recovery

vill yield long-term benefits. This needs to be done.

Page 148 -- "Mabitat for four sevsitive species occur in the management area". Plant or animal or both? Clarify.

Page 149 - See comment for page 143.

Page 151 - Ditto

45-27 Page 159 -- Do the candidate, T&E species include any plants?

45-23

45.24

Page 160 -- Easements should be secured for vehicular access to

45-29

45-30

45-31

Page 269 -- We note under B.1. and B.3. "sensitive plant havitats" should be included in those listed to stay t mile away from, such as

you cited in C.1.

In Chapter 2 in the discussion for each of the alternatives for each of the individual management areas under "Decisions" (such as on page 56) you cite "Meet DPC goals on ______acres" etc., etc. Each of these goals should eventually be increased to the maximum for each DPC in each MA. The acreage cited are but a tiny percentage of that which you can even-

We favor your intention to acquire a total of 20,469 new acres.

Do you purchase them or trade for them, and if traded how many are given

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review and comment upon this document.

Sincerely.

Vincent Yoder, Conservation Chair Bristlecone Chapter California Native Plant Society

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 45 (California Native Plant Society)

- 45-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 45-2) Our final plan decision on fire suppression limits efforts to control wildfires to the most economical response consistent with human and resource values at risk.
- 45-3) If vegetation manipulation is planned, fire will be considered along with other methods to determine the most effective means to accomplish the objectives.
- 45-4) Without specific examples, it is difficult to respond to your concern that some environmental matters may receive better treatment under the 'no action' alternative than under the preferred alternative. We believe the preferred alternative is more environmentally oriented than the no action alternative.

All future funding will be based on actions we have identified in the RMP. It is difficult to predict what actual funding levels will be, but we are optimistic that our proposals will receive favorable consideration. If funding is less than optimal, it will take a little longer to fully implement the RMP. If funding levels are higher, implementation will occur sooner. One way to facilitate implementation is through the development of partnerships. We would be happy to explore the potential of developing a partnership with CNPS at the local level to more efficiently implement the plan.

- 45-5) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 45-6) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 45-7) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 45-8) This has been reworded in the final.

- 45-9) We have changed this support need to indicate "dead and down wood" as you have recommended.
- 45-10) Monitoring of water quality in the Coleville Management Area will be done to ensure trout habitat quality is maintained. Bureau policy directs us to apply mitigation measures to areas where livestock grazing and recreation use conflict with each other.

Contingent upon funding, a proactive recreation program would highlight public land features through increased visitor services such as publication of brochures, installation of signing, and development of facilities where it is compatible with RMP direction. It would include additional law enforcement as well as interpretive and educational opportunities. This management would attract more use and provide the means to better protect resources. Please see the Funding section of Chapter 1 in the final RMP for further information.

- 45-11) Permitting commercial fuelwood harvesting of live trees in designated area would aid our efforts in meeting the desired plant community goal for the pinyon-juniper vegetation type. There are provisions in the desired plant community definition for retaining dead standing and down wood.
- 45-12) The New York Butte Bristlecone area is within the Keynot Peak ACFC.
- 45-13) There is no fish habitat in the South Inyo MA. The reference has been removed from the final plan.
- 45-14) Rehabilitation of a disturbed area is usually a two stage process. The area is recontoured to reduce soil erosion by water, then reseeded with species (either grass or shrubs) adapted to the site. In the Bishop Resource Area it has always been a policy to minimize removal of native vegetation due to the difficultly of reestablishino it with little annual rainfall.
- 45-15) If severe use of herbaceous forage in riparian, aspen or meadow areas occurs measures will be taken to reduce livestock grazing impacts to a more acceptable level.

- 45-16) The sentence is incorrect. The word "would" is supposed to be "could". The 10-30% is an estimate of the total area that could be affected. The degree to which any particular action may affect a given population would probably be less, and would be assessed on an individual basis. Bureau policy discourages any negative impacts on sensitive species or their habitats.
- 48-17) The VRM II requirements do not correlate directly with the amount of locatable or saleable minerals that can be developed in any given area. These are merely management guidelines that set standards for protection of the visual resource. Just because an area is in a VRM II or I designation does not necessarily mean that mining would be prohibited. Special mitigation measures might be needed to ensure that visual quality is maintained. Mining activities are temporary and after reclamation is completed the sites would revert to their original (or similar) condition, for most projects, within 2 to 5 years.
- 45-18) The draft RMP, Alternative 4, p.83 identifies a support need to develop a program to reduce trash and vandalism. The Bureau would address shooting in this program.
- 45-19) We feel our DPC descriptions for springs and associated wetlands adequately cover alkali meadow and alkali marsh, using the description provided by Holland (1986) in Descriptions of Terrestrial National Communities of California for those two communities. Holland (1986) does not describe thermal marsh and we are not aware of specific vegetation characteristics for the habitat. Also, Holland (1986) does not describe alkali desert scrub although the vegetation type is recognized by this resource area in prior vegetation EIS's. We feel our sand dune DPC adequately addresses your concern with the alkali desert scrub type.

45-20) As stated on p.132 of the draft RMP/EIS, the decline in aspen habitat quality in the Bridgeport Management Area was primarily the result of removal of understory vegetation by grazing. The effects of grazing were probably compounded by the current drought, which has reduced understory vegetation production.

Most aspen in this management area is in the Dog Creek and Green Creek sheep allotments. Steps have already been taken to improve conditions on the Dog Creek Allotment. The AMP for this allotment was rewritten in 1989 and included a provision that no grazing would be permitted in aspen groves on public lands. Similar actions will probably be implemented in the Green Creek Allotment to facilitate achievement of DPC goals. The ability to control sheep through herding reduces the need for fencing to protect these areas. Fences will be used only where no other viable ootion exists.

- 45-21) The data in the tables came from the Bodie/Coleville and Benton/Owens Valley grazing EISs. Figures for the Benton/Owens Valley were copied incorrectly from the grazing EIS; these figures have been corrected in the final (Appendix 6, Errata). The 732 acre difference (3.9%) in the Bodie/Coleville area resulted from separate measurements for vegetation and ecological condition in the grazing EIS. Accuracy any greater than this would have been difficult using the methods available when the grazing EIS was written. Future use of GIS computer methods should reduce this type of inconsistency.
- 45-22) Improved management of riparian vegetation would occur as a result of a number of decisions in the RMP. Spring associated wetlands are afforded a DPC description by management area. Fencing is an option for attaining the DPC goal and could be determined appropriate in future activity plans.

The following decisions serve to minimize disturbance to thermal marshes: on p.50 of the draft RIMP, yearlong protection on meadows; on p.61, yearlong protection of the Travertine ACEC; and on p.89, prohibition of geothermal exploration/development in relation to habitats of listed, candidate or other species of concern.

- 45-23) It is the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a Recovery Plan for listed species. This RMP provides decisions which will improve habitat quality and population condition for listed species like Lahontan cutthroat trout, Owens pupfish, and Owens tui chub. Habitat quality will be improved for the majority of the species listed in Appendix 6, draft RMP. Whenever possible, activity plans will include measures to protect and enhance habitat of those species.
- 45-24) A management plan for each sensitive plant species is not deemed necessary at this time. Should monitoring data reflect a substantial vegetative change in a species or its habitat condition, a management plan may be appropriate. In the meantime any management plans developed for areas where sensitive plant species are found, will address measures to protect them.
- 45-25) Refer to Appendix 1 in the final.
- 45-26) The sensitive species occurring in the Bridgeport Management Area are one insect, two mammal and one plant species.
- 45-27) There are five candidate plant species located in the Owens Valley Management Area.
- 45-28) The draft RMP, Alternative 4, p.85 identifies easement acquisition for hiking trails in the Inyo Mountains.
- 45-29) Sensitive plant habitats have been added to these standard operating procedures.
- 45-30) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 45-31) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

DANIEL W. WATERS, General Manager and Chief Engine ELDON A. COTTON, Assistant General Manager - Fower JAMES F. WICKSER, Assistant General Manager - Water NORMAN L. BUEHRING, Assistant General Me NORMAN L. POWERS, Chief Fluorical Officer

January 8, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514-2498

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Draft Bishop Resource Area Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS)

This is in response to your request for comments on the September 1990 Draft RMP/EIS. The Draft RMP/EIS outlines four alternatives to managing public lands in the Bishop Resource Area. Three east-west transmission line (T/L) corridor alternatives are also studied. These alternatives resolve the management issues that were identified earlier in the planning process. The selected alternative will guide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the management of 750,000 acres of public land. Currently, Alternative No. 4 is the preferred land management alternative. The preferred alternative for an east-west transmission corridor is to designate the Soldier Canvon a transmission corridor.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (DWP) Power System commends and firmly supports the efforts by BLM and the U. S. Forest Service in the coordination, study, and planning for an east-west transmission corridor exiting the Owens Valley. Transmission corridors are a necessary and essential right-of-way management tool as well as a land use designation. This planning will assure all utilities the efficient use of Federal lands in bringing electrical power to the Southern California area. The DWP's Power System supports the designation of the Soldier Canvon alternative as the preferred east-west transmission corridor out of the Owens Valley.

The impacts that are identified in the Draft RMP/FTS for the Soldier Canyon alternative would be lessened by the application of the conditions stipulated in the Draft RMP/EIS. The DWP's Power System believes that the use of existing roads coupled with the adherence to the stipulated conditions contained in the DraftRMP/EIS, are adequate to protect the environment. Short segments of T/L construction without roads, or the reclamation

Asser and Power Conservation . . . a way of life

H1 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California D. Mailing address: Box 111, Los Angeles 90051-0100 Telephone: (213) 481-4211. Cable address: DEWAPOLA FAX: (213) 481-8701.

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson

January 8, 1991

of portions of construction roads, should further reduce many of those long-term impacts as identified in the Draft RMP/EIS.

The California-Southern Nevada region will experience growth in peak electrical energy demand on the order of 2 percent per year through the year 2000. To support this demand, new sources of electrical energy must be developed along with conservation measures and efficient use of available electrical energy.

Due to economic, demographic, and land-use restrictions in Southern California, new power generation will largely be in remote areas such as the Intermountain Region and the Great Basin. The electrical energy generated at these remote sites must be brought to load centers in California and Southern Nevada by a transmission system that is both efficient and reliable.

The Owens Valley and Eastern California are strategically located for utility corridors which would provide the energy from new power generation resources in the Great Basin and Intermountain Region. The Soldier Canyon utility corridor would be the only alternate from Nevada to the Southern California area other than from the Reno, Nevada, area (a longer route through the Owens Valley) or from the Las Vegas, Nevada, area. The Las Vegas/Southern Nevada area is growing rapidly and already contains several land-use exclusions. In addition, the Las Vegas area carries a major portion of the peak-load requirements of the Southern California region. Other potential routes to the northwest or southeast of the Owens Valley are infeasible due to land-use restrictions such as land designated as suitable for Wilderness, military bases, and the Death Valley National Monument (proposed National Park).

Considering the fact that other transmission corridors are nearing their capacity, and land-use barriers on the northwest and southeast of the Owens Valley and the Bishop Resource Area preclude the developmet of other corridors, the most feasible access from the western portion of the Intermountain Region and the Great Basin to the metropolitan areas of Southern California would be through the Bishop Resource Area and the Owens Valley via an east-west corridor as discussed in the Draft RMP/RIS.

Sincerely,

Sul Kati EDWARD KARAPETIAN

Manager of Environmental and Governmental Affairs

c: Mr. Richard Y. Ito

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 46 (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)

46-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).



787 N. Main Street Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Land Acquistion - Benton Reservation

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

47-1

Mr. Mike Ferguson, Ares Manager Bureau of Land Management

I'm correspondening with your office on the "Slabop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement." The issue is the land addition to the Benton-Faiute Reservation. The Slav proposed to add the land in a "L" shape around the Reservation, see attachment #1. However, I disagree with this proposed addition for the following reasons:

- 1. The land is unsuitable for development due to large washes.
- It is easier to development a large square piece of land then to plan around the washes that can be used for anything.

I, therefore, propose that the lend he added to the Reservation to the south of the reservation with a slight off set to the West. This way the use at the east aids would not be elevalized in the least aids would not be levolved in the land middition. This way the total land to be added would be all developable. In addition, a 2.5 serve wide arrip of land to be added to the West aids of the current Reservation. The reason is that a BMI right-of-way has been becaused for Thirb's power line to operate that a BMI right-of-way has been because in the south west corner of the current Reservation because the state of the Reservation would be a quarter section or the land added to the south of the Reservation would be a quarter section or the loss of added to the south of the Reservation would be a quarter section or Plants see attachment 2 for my recognises to the bestor-Faith Reservation on the section of the Reservation would be a parter section or

The Concept that I propose is my idea and not that of the Benton Painte Reservation. However, I firmly believe that it is the best idea for adding land to the Reservation that is useable.

47-2 Furthermore, I still feel that about 22,000 acres should be added to the Reservations land base. Please see Attachment #2 for the land sres suggested. Attached to the map is the reasons for the large acreage to be added.

Mr. Ferguson Page 2.

I was going to attach the reasons, but I can spell then out here.

- 47-2 cent.
- The most important reason is that of protecting the underground
 mater that the Tribe has to use. This is important because the
 Mono Parma, Inc., is attempting to pump ground water for male. It
 is possible that once the Bentow Pailty Ground water is drawn down,
 the protection of the pulled out of Bind Spring Walley, and thus,
 tower than the pulled out of Bind Spring Walley, and thus,
 tower than the pulled out of Bind Spring Walley, and thus,
 tower than the pulled out of Bind Spring Walley.
- Members of the Tribe have been trying to obtain livestock permits to graze land on BLM or USYS areas. They have not been able to obtain any needed permits. This would provide a large enough Tribal land base to allow tribal members to graze cattle/sheep on the Reservation.
- 3. The Tribe is located in a very isolated region. Buployment is not the greatest benefit for living on the Reservation. The Tribe has to attempt to create employment. This area does have Mineral available in the area. The Tribe could develop those areas that are analyteable in creating employment in this area. Therefore, the land sequistion would provide the Tribe with tensources that could enhance the growth of the

Therefore, I'm still requesting that a larger size land base be provide to the Tribe by BLM or the U. S. Congress, especially to protect our water shed.

There is one other area that concerns me. That is the Transmission Line Corridor planning by the BLM. I'm opposed to any further Transmission line to run in the current Corridor west of the Benton Pajute Reservation in the Blind Spring Valley. The Electromagnetic study in the reason that I'm not supportive of additional Transmission lines in this area.

If you have any questions on this matter, I can be contacted at the Cerro Coso Community College on Wednesdays/Thursdays at 87308680.

Thank you.

Spectally yours.

Duck Charlese

Tibal Member

Fornerly Tribal Chairperson

cc: Tribal Membership

47-4

47-3

THE ISSUE THAT I TORGOT IS THE IDEAN WEED CEPTETELY WEST OF DUTCH PERES (ANNOT BY ARMY) INCL. ARMY 3-5 MORES SHOULD BE PRICED TO THE LOW-LINE GENERAL PRICE TRIBE SHOW THE MERICAL ARMS MENTER TO THE LEARNING CAN GO VIEWED ON THE STRUMBENT SHOP. JOSEPH.— TO SENT.—

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 47 (Joseph C, Saulque)

- 47-1) Due to your involvement throughout the planning process, we recognize the need for expansion of the Benton reservation. However, we do not have the authority to give public land to the reservation; withdrawals for Native American reservations can only be enacted by Congress. By including the disposal in the plan we have shown our support for the concept. We are willing to work with the Benton Paiute Reservation to adjust the boundaries when your withdrawal proposal goes to Congress.
- 47-2) We cannot support the 22,000 acre transfer you are proposing because we do not feel it would be in the best public interest. The lands provide critical winter range for deer, candidate and endangered species habitat, pronghorn and sage grouse habitat, dispersed recreation opportunities, and other important resources. These resources can be protected and many of the private uses you propose can be accommodated on public land without transferring the land out of public ownership.
- 47-3) Page 49 of the draft RMP identifies conditions and mitigation measures applicable to designation of this corridor. One of those conditions requires that in the vicinity of Benton Hot Springs (the same approximate area in which the Benton Painte Reservation is located), the corridor will be limited to 1/4 mile west of the existing Intertie alignment. This condition was specifically identified as a means of precluding the construction of future transmission lines where they would be even closer to residential areas than the existing Intertie. Any new lines will be located far enough away that people in those areas will not receive increased exposure to EMF.
- 47-4) The appropriate authorization for this cemetery would be a Recreation and Public Purpose lease. An Act of Congress withdrawing the land for the reservation is not necessary.



Sacramento Audubon Society

650 Mills Road Bacramento CA 95864 January 12, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager U.S. Bureau of Land Management Blahop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Blahon CB 93718-2998

Dear Mr. Fergusons

The following are the commenta of the Sacramento Chapter of the National Audubon Society on your draft "Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement."

Our members are frequent users of the area covered, and are concerned for the preservation of habitat for birds, wildlife, and native plants, as well as for the protection of the general acenic, historic, and recreational values of the Bishop area.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

Me are concerned that while some 286,000 acree in the Bishoon Resource First and victity have been designated at Midfe, the deaft MMP only recommende 27,000 acree of the original 30,000 acree of the confidence of the Confidence

Instead, you are proposing mineral exploration on Potato Peak in the Bodis Mountaina, new DRV "route connectors" throughout the Bodis Hills, and increased DRV uss of the Volcanic Tablelanda.

GRAZ IND

48-1

The serious decline in the range over the past decade demands that you make a serious re-evaluation of your grazing programs and policies. It is not enough to merely summarize existing range programs in the RMM. You need to establish a fire policy

Natural Resources are the Weslth of the Nation

- 48.2 of managing BLM grazing lands for optimum habitat, with priority for the needs of wildlife. Existing grazing ElS's need to be revised to conform to this policy.
- Your Desired Plant Community goals are a step in the right discretion, but do not go far enough. You should be devoting much more effort and acreage to the protection of sensitive plants and the preservation of wetland and riparian habitat. We are particularly concerned with protection in the Fish Slough and Bodie Wills areas.

MINING

- While your pre-draft preferred alternative proposed to withdraw about 38,000 acree from locatable mining and another 35,000 from control of the presence of th
- We are particularly concerned for the protection of the natural, 96-5 cultural, and scenic values of the land surrounding Bodie State Historic Park. As you know, the integrity of the park is seriously threatened by a proposal for an enormous open-pit gold

While the mining operation would be centered on private lands just outside the park boundary and the townsite, a good deal of the activity would involve public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

This means that the actions and policies of the Bureau could have a very significant effect in protecting this National Historic Landmark and the surrounding Bodse Bowl Area of Critical Environmental Concentration

In this respect, your priferred alternative does not go far mough, and a complete internal withdrawal in the Bodis Bowl is essential to protect both the histories of the Bodis Bowl is essential to protect both the histories of the wildlife values of the area. While the 6,000 errors of BLM land in the Bodis Bowl is critical to the protection of Bodis, it is less than one-third of one percent of all the publicly owned land in the county, and less than one percent of BLM's own holdings. Surely this is no too much to ask you to protect.

It is also important that BLM in its management of the Bodie Bowl area carefully monitor all current mineral exploration for compliance with all rules and quidelines; prohibit any additional

- exploration without public notice and hearing; and withdraw from oatenting any mining claims upon which a patent application was not pending on March 15, 1998.
- The Bureau should also prepare a complete inventory of the cultural and natural features of the area, prior to any new espioration which is not cover both prior to the cover of the cover observative boundary for the National Historic Landeart, Such a boundary should include all excevations and structural relations. The cover of the cover of

where mining on any valid claims cannot be prohibited, such permits should require no impairment of the cultural, natural, or recreational resource values now present at Bodie State Historic Park and in the area of critical environmental concern.

He also urgs the Bureau to apply for Land and Mater Conservation Fund sonies to purchase those interests in private lands in the Bodie Boel area which would be sufficient to prohibit mining activity there. We understand such sonies could come from the Bureau's national apportionment or from the Interior Secretary's discretionary portion of that fund.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP, and for your helpfulness in providing us with a copy of the plan and other pertinent materials. We found the Dacember 21 summary of the issues raised at the public hearings to be particularly well done and useful.

Sincerely,

48-4

cont.

48-7

48-8

William C. Dillinger Conservation Committee Sacramento Audubon RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 48 (William C. Dillinger, Sacramento Audubon Society)

- 48-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 48-2) Please see the "grazing" general response (5-11).
- 48-3) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 48-4) Please see general response for minerals (p.5-13), item 4.

There are other ways to protect wildlife and wild plant habitat than through a withdrawal. Site-specific stipulation, mitigation and compliance inspection can adequately protect these resources and at the same time permit exploration and development of mineral deposits.

A buffer zone around Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area is not needed because the potential for locatable and leasable mineral development in these areas is low.

48-5) Protection of Bodie and the National Historic Landmark is one of the prime goals of the RMP. While there has been no proposal for an open-pit gold mine on Bodie Bluff, we are aware of the potential for such a proposal. Our decisions relating to the Bodie Bowl are intended to protect the historic and visual resources of the National Historic Landmark and proposed ACEC by setting standards or criteria that any proposed project (be it wildlife enhancement, recreation or mining) must meet.

The final RMP includes a mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).

- 48-6) All mineral exploration on public lands near Bodie has been monitored, and has been done properly. An EIR/EA is being prepared by Mono County on current proposed exploration activities, and the public has been notified. A mining claimant may take a claim to patent at any time he can show a valid mineral deposit; and the law does not allow us to withdraw existing mining claims from the patent process.
- 48-7) See general Bodie response.

A complete inventory of the cultural and natural features of the area is not possible at this time. Cultural inventories of the potentially impacted areas have been done and will continue to be done prior to any mineral exploration work.

48-8) This is being considered, but is not a decision made in the RMP.



720 Brookfield Drive Reno, Nevada 89503 January 11, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area, BLM 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The following are my comments on behalf of the Northern California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee regarding the Bishop Resource Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Bishop Resource Area is extremely important for many reasons—ties usperb setting in the Eastern Sierra, its proximity to two magnificent national forests, its wildlife and recreational values, its wild roadless areas, its streams and springs, the presence of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species, the myriad of cultural and historical values, and the diversity of its geology and landforms. In view of these values, it is an area that must be managed with sensitivity these values, it is an area that must be managed with sensitivity Alao, unlike many BLM resource areas, it is highly visible to the public.

49-1

disparities—namely, the subjects that were included and the subjects that were excluded in the study. A good example of the former is the analysis of three transmission line corridors which seem to have little to do with the RMP since most of the land involved belongs to the Forest Service. The most obvious example of the latter is the exclusion of grazing from consideration, even though the last grazing study on the area was done ten years ago. If the study of the last grazing study on the area was done ten years ago. If the study of the study

satisfactory coverage under the strictures of the Proposed Draft

On my initial reading of this document, I was struck by two

47-4

DAS VEGAS GROUP P.O. Box 19777

Plan.

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth. . .

OREAT BASIN GROUP P.O. Box 8096 Bross Neverte 59503 Mike Ferguson 1/11/91, Page 2.

49-4

49-5

I have segregated my comments according to general categories and, when appropriate given page references. Since there is no index to the Draft RMP (this is badly needed, in view of the complexity and confusing organization of the document), it is sometimes difficult to cite the exact quotation, but I have done so where possible.

I. Transmission line corridor alternatives.

ham pages are devoted to this subject in spite of the fact that the control except for Appendix 8, "Trea crease is made for this corridor except for Appendix 8, "Trea crease is made for the creation of the considered as an unbiased source of information.) From reading 1 have done on alternatives to huge emergy importations into Southern California, innever the needed. The cancellation of plans for the building of the signatic Thousand Springs Power Plant in Eastern Nevada, partly halication to leak of a market in Southern California, is an indication to leak of a market in Southern California, is an extended to the control of th

Certainly there is no reason to plan for such a line in this document. If a corridor is proposed in the future, the study should be done in a separate EIS and include the whole transmission which you cite lie mostly on Forest Service land and have no beginning and no end. Soldier Canyon, your preferred alternative, goes through a Forest Service roadless area and would completely gut the pristine values of this area. Additionally, such a line in the Ridgecreat Resource Area. The other corridors are also unacceptable. On my third reading of this document, I did find mention of a "no action" alternative for this corridor under Alternative 3, but there is no adequate discussion of this alternative to consider the corridor as a whole are possible violations of NEPA.

The best way out of your dilemma on this power line corridor proposal is to eliminate the subject in the final RMP and substitute a statement to the effect that, if it is found that such a power line is necessary in the future, a separate EIS will be done on the whole corridor and the RMP modified accordingly.

II. Wilderness Study Areas

The Bishop Resource Area is rich in MBA's. Unfortunately, as you state in this document, only part of the Southern Inyo [27,420 acres) was recommended for wilderness status by the California BLM in their report to the Secretary of Interior. However, the designation of wilderness is a Congressional prerogative and has nothing to do with Menory recommendations. In fact, Congress usually transport

Mike Ferguson. 1/11/91, Page 3.

agency recommendations as an absolute minimum in the final passage of wilderness bills.

The South Inyo Mountains WSA has presently exactly the same status as all the other WSA's in the Bishop Resource Area. They are all to be protected under the Interim Management Plan regulation until Congress has made its decision. Therefore, the RMP should indicate clearly this protection, stating that all WSA's are to be indicate clearly this protection, stating that all WSA's are to be seen and the state of the WSA's and the world of the WSA's are to be seen and if Congress has released specific areas to "multiple use." This must be made clear in your final document since the worlding on Page 24 is prejudicial to the wilderness values in the WSA's and needs to be changed. I am not asking that you restudy the wilderness recommendations, poor as these are, but merely that you should be a supported to the WSA's and an account of the WSA's and should be special status and protection of the WSA's of the Wilderness recommendations, poor as these are, but merely that you are solved to the world wilderness acts.

III. Grazing

The decision to exclude grazing from the RMP is incomprehensible is since the ETS for grazing in the Benton-Owens Valley Planning Unit is dated 1981 and in the Bodie-Coleville Planning Unit 1982. The ecological conditions of the resource area vegetation was classified at the time the studies were made in 1978 and 1980, and this data are summarized in Table 3-7 on Page 134. There is no summary given for present conditions, although portions of the text seem to indicate that conditions are worsening.

Specific references in the document to livestock causing deterioration include the following:

A discussion of streams (page 129) states that stream surveys conducted in 1988/89 showed 28.3 miles in excellent condition, 53.25 miles in good condition, 43.75 miles in fair condition, and 30.75 miles in poor condition. "Heavy livestock grazing and trampling were the most common factors degrading stream channel stability and riparian vegetation composition and structure." In an inventory of spring conditions (page 129) conducted from 1983 to "95, 89 were in good condition, 141 were in fair condition, and

- were in poor condition. "Factors influencing the ratings ...lated to water quality (those grazed by livestock has higher levels of bacteria, nutrients and sediment), livestock trampling and vegetative conditions. . Four streams were tested for domestic uses the property of the sediment of the sed

Mike Ferguson. 1/11/91. Page 4.

49-7 cont.

In the Bridgeport MA (page 132) a 1980 survey found that of 887 acres of aspen 86% were in good to excellent condition. A resurvey of the same groves in 1988 found only 21% in good to excellent condition. As in the Bodie Hills MA, "the primary damage to aspen groves is the loss of most understory vegetation from excessive livestock use. " This enormous deterioration in aspen groves has a profound effect on wildlife, particularly for nesting birds.

Another reference to riparian conditions (page 134) states that "livestock grazing was identified as the primary influence degrading stream riparian habitat conditions. The effects of season-long continuous use, concentrated distributions, heavy forage use, and soil and plant damage are primarily responsible for degraded conditions." The same statement is made about spring wetland habitat (page 135), and about sensitive plant habitats (page 136). The only section entitled "Livestock Grazing" (page 143) reiterates this concern: "Certain areas receive heavy utilization year after year resulting in lowered plant vigor, reduced vegetative cover, soil compaction, and a decline in wildlife habitat quality.'

All of the management areas seem to be degraded by excessive livestock grazing, but this is particularly true in the Bodie Hills and the Granite Mt. MA's, possibly because these are the most remote and the least subject to public scrutiny.

In view of the above statements, grazing needs to be addressed specifically in this RMP. Current conditions must be presented and analyzed, recommendations for correcting problems must be made, and a good monitoring program must be set up. Failure to consider the impacts of grazing means that your wildlife and recreation objectives cannot be achieved.

IV. Desired Plant Community

49-8

This is a term I have not encountered in previous RMP's, but evidently the focus is on the health of plant communities best able to support the various types of wildlife. The concept seems a worthy one, but I am puzzled as to why only 30% of the resource area lands are defined for this treatment and even more confused as to why only 14% half been selected for treatment. In a ten to twenty year plan, all of the areas that would benefit by DPC treatment should be included. Also the treatment needs to be carefully monitored to make sure it is achieving the desired results. However, DPC treatment is not a substitute for good grazing management, but really a complement to this management.

Mike Perguson 1/11/91, Page 5.

V. Fire Suppression

49-9

Your decision to suppress all wildfires is totally opposite to the policy currently believed to be the most advantageous for the ecological health of the vegetation and the associated wildlife. Most of the BLM documents I have reviewed state that naturally occurring wildfires will be suppressed only when they threaten life or property or for some special reason (e.g., the protection of sagegrouse leks.) Furthermore, suppressing all wildfires is expensive and uses monies that are better spent in resource protection. There is no rationale in the document for total suppression. I ask, therefore, that after consultation with fire ecologists and wildlife biologists, you modify this position.

VI. Mining

The mineral values in this Resource Area are not nearly as important as the recreational and wildlife values. While I realize you are constrained from certain decisions by the antiquated 1872 Mining Law, it is possible for you to withdraw lands from mining that have special values which mining would seriously impact. All of Bodie Bowl, not just the 30,000 acres recommended in Alternative 3, should be withdrawn from gining because of the historical and cultural values and the enormous public interest and concern about this area. All ACEC's should also be withdrawn. WSA's are at present protected from any new mining activity that impacts their wilderness values, but future withdrawals may be necessary after Congress has acted. Geothermal development must be scrutinized carefully because of its effects on hot springs. Both water quality and air quality need to be analyzed for any proposed geothermal development.

VII. ORV Use

49-11

ORV use should be confined to designated roads and trails in the RMP. If an existing road or trail is causing resource damage (e.g., adding sediment to a stream), it should be closed to use. All ACEC's and all WSA's should be closed to ORV use. An educational program for ORV users would be helpful in explaining the purpose

closures, and a good map must be available showing these closures.

49-12

Motorcycle events are of particular concern because they can have such a devastating effect on both cultural values and wildlife. as well as impacting sensitive vegetation. In addition they add to air and water quality problems. On Page 151 an annual motorcycle poker rally entitled The Sierra Safari run in the Granite Mt. MA is mentioned. Evidently this event involves 300 cycles (or 300 people since the wording is not clear.) Monitoring of and environmental effects of this event are not mentioned. The RMP must require an adequate environmental analysis of each event

Mike Ferguson. 1/11/91. Page 6.

49-13

before any application is approved, and careful monitoring of all events to assess environmental damage.

VIII. Land Acquisitions and Disposals

I favor Alternative 3 which acquires 41,700 acres, mostly for wildlife habitat, and disposes of none. However, I would modify this alternative to allow acquisition of small parcels of land for or all the state of the state of

In summary, the only alternative that can be even partially supported is Alternative 3, the Natural Resource Enhancement Alternative. Two strong recommendations in that alternative are the designation of ten ACEC's and the acquisition of 41,700 acres for wildlife. However, even Alternative 3 has many omissions, including failure to withdraw all of Bodie Bowl from mining.

Allarge amount of work is needed to make this draft RRF into a document that actually addresses all the problems of the resource area the recommendation an agreement that can be carried out for the second control of the resource area the recommendation of the resource area that control the resource area that can be described by the resource of the resource area to resource and the resource of the resource area to resource and the resource area to resource and the resource area to resource and resource area to resource are the resource area to resource and resource area to resource are resource are resourced as the resource area to resource area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. I would be happy to discuss any of my recommendations with you by phone or in person. I have a close personal interest in this resource area and want it to be managed in the best way possible.

Marjorie Sill, Vice Chair and Pederal Lands Coordinator, No. CA/NV Regional Conservation Committee, Sierra Club RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 49 (Marjorie Sill, Sierra Club Conservation Committee)

- 49-1) As stated on p.30 of the draft RMP, the Forest Service participated with the BLM as a cooperating agency in the corridor study, which was consequently expanded to include Invo National Forest lands.
- 49-2) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 49-3) An index is included in the final.
- 9-4) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 49-5) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. See also the general response for the corridor study.

The western termini of all three east-west alternative areas considered in this study were the current location of the alignment of either the north-south 500 kV DC Intertie transmission line, or the 115 kV SCE double circuit line (from Bishop south to Olancha). The eastern termini of the east-west alternative areas coincided with the eastern boundary of the Inyo National Forest, the limit of the interagency corridor study.

Page 206 of the draft RMP analyzes the impacts of a No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative. Using the document's Appendix 8 as a reference, this section of the document adequately addresses a "No Action" alternative as required by NEPA.

- Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final 49-6) RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. Since the Bureau believes that the Southern Invo WSA will be the minimum designated wilderness in the resource area, we have projected a scenario to reflect such a designation. And since it is likely that not all the remaining WSAs would be designated wilderness by Congress, we have prescribed long term nonwilderness direction for the areas. Nonwilderness prescriptions would not be implemented until after these areas are reviewed by Congress and designated to nonwilderness status. The interim management and policy guidelines would continue to protect wilderness values until Congress acts on the WSAs. We believe the RMP's long term nonwilderness direction for WSAs that are designated nonsuitable would minimize public expenditures, reduce unnecessary planning, and increase our on-the-ground resource management.
- 49-7) Please see the "Grazing" general response.
- 49-8) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 49-9) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 49-10) The final RMP includes a withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See p.2-22 and the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).

The ACECs were considered for withdrawal. However, as there is low potential for mineral development, a decision was made not to withdraw them from mineral entry. The part of the Cornway Summit ACEC which was recently acquired is not open to the 1872 mining law and does not need to be withdrawn. See the discussion of mineral withdrawals in the general minerals response (p.5-13).

Any proposed geothermal project would go through the NEPA process and be analyzed carefully for potential impacts to hot springs, water quality and air quality.

- 49-11) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8). We concur with your comments about the educational program for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts. We will adopt your proposals and incorporate them into our OHV program.
- 49-12) The Bureau closely monitors the Sierra Safari each year. Photo points are established each year with pre- and post-ride photos taken to document impacts. Several Bureau representatives patrol and monitor the event as well. An environmental assessment is prepared for each event analyzing impacts and expected problems. The event has had negligible environmental impacts. The event occurs on roads; cross-country travel is prohibited. Over the years, we have submitted our photos to conservation groups such as the Wildenness Society and Desert Survivors. To date, no appeal has been filed on the event.

The reference to the Sierra Safari in the draft RMP was meant to illustrate one particular type of use that occurs in the area under Bureau authorization.

49-13) See the general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

DEEP SPRINGS COLLEGE

POSTAL ADDRESS: VIA DYEE NEVADA 80010

11 January, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

To the manager:

50-1

50-2

The following comments are in response to the draft of the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Emironmental Impact Statement. They specifically address the utility corridor proposal. Please consider these comments in the preparation of the final version, and in your continued planning.

Corridor Need The basic need for a new corridor requires critical evaluation. The statement of need comes from the utility companies themselves, and should merit an independent analysis to be certain of avoiding any conflicts of interest. On page 23 it is stated that "There is considerable domain from utility companies for additional transmission line routes..." Public utility profits are determined according to expenses, and constructing new transmission flust are indeed expensive. The Associated Press recently reported (2 January, 1991) that financially troubled Deserted Generation & Tansmission (Oridor, Toestalled bankruptcy by promising sales of its power to West Coast markets. DG&T: West Coast sales depend upon the new Nevada transmission corridor, With more than \$1 billion in debt, it is not difficult to conclude on what side of the issue are their lobbying efforts; and that these efforts are economically motivated.

The most significant stated need for the corridor is enhancement of system reliability (n. 206, pp. 273-276), Routing additional power to southern California via Owens Valley may potentially decrease system reliability (see below). With about half of southern California's power already going through Owens Valley, increasing its share seems ill-advised. Alternatives for increasing system reliability without new corridors are not ever mentioned. A potential scenario for a cascading power outage is described in Appendix 8. For this scenario to occur, 'automatic load-shedding relays and other protective equipment' must fail (p. 275). If these are the keystones of system reliability, then sound engineering principles dictate that these systems be made redundant and fail-safe. Such measures would certainty be conomically desirable over establishing new transmission cordions. Another alternative deserving investigation is that of upgrading emergency procedures for reestablishing ret mannission following the event of castarophic disruption.

TELEPHONE (619) 872-2000

ASK OPERATOR FOR (619) TOLL STATION DEEP SPRINGS NO. 2

- 50-2 Temporary structures may be feasible that could be mobilized and erected at the site of the damage to facilitate restoration of transmitted power in a matter of hours. Such temporary structures would serve until the completion of reconstruction.
- Additional transmission lines could be obviated by locating power generating facilities closer to the users in southern California. This is an option not generally considered feasible because of the restrictive pollution requirements near urban areas. In the present case, this means exporting the pollution source away from the urban concentration to the Great Basin area. This then enables coal fueled plants and less stringent pollution standards. However, perhaps the actual cost of the pollution emitted from these plants in the west significantly contribute to the seld-rain problem to the cast. What is the ultimate cost of forest and aquatic environment problem to the cast. What is the ultimate cost of forest and aquatic environment is under the cost of plants chosen to the users with a proporties are injusty signified decide in favor of plants choser to the users with appropriate are injusty control (without long distance power transmission) compared to ones in the Great Basin with appropriate air quality control.
- Geological Risks of Routing Power through Owens Valley Any of the
 150-4

 Willy corridor alternatives would connect to the Owens Valley corridor to proceed
 south. Through the Owens Valley, this line runs directly along the great fault on
 the eastern Sierra exampment. In 1872, this was the site of one of our nation's most
 devastatingly powerful earthquakes in recorded history. This area should be
 considered sessimically unstable, and it certainly has the potential for a similar
 seismic episode. This corridor does not just cross this fault, rather it runs parallel to
 it fault for about 100 miles, thus the potential destructiveness is enromous. This
 consideration alone argues against routing additional power through Owens Valley
 for reasons of reliability.
- Another Risk that Reduces Reliability The preferred corridor alternative of 50-4/A life of Carpon passes through a bighom mountain sheep range. The head that inhabits this range was eliminated in the 1960's after contracting disease from domestic sheep. However, efforts are in progress to reestablish this herd, and this herd in absentia must be considered in planning. Because of bighors sheep's sensitivity to disturbance, a transmission line over the layo mountains at this point would fleely require readless construction. Additionally, it is very rugged where this potential segment of the corridor would eross the layo mountains. Such a length of inaccessible and troadless line would be an ideal target for subotage (p. 206). A potential saboteur would naturally be attracted to such a section since disruption would be maximized where repair would be most difficult.
- 50-5 Other Concerns The logical eastern extension of a transmission line from the Soldier Canyon alternative would proceed across Deep Springs Valley. This

50-5 cont.

50-6

enclosed valley is uniquely beautiful because of its small size, steep surrounding mountain walls and unspoiled character. The primary settlement of the valley is Deep Springs College which privately owns all of the valley's significant water sources, which effectively precludes any further development. Visual impacts are mentioned throughout the document as important considerations in corridor planning. Reasons stated for locating an east-west corridor through eastern California instead of a Las Vegas route include visual impacts. Visual impact to the Deep Springs Valley, and to all of the alternatives proposed should be considered equally important to the ones mentioned that initiated the proposal. California state highway 16%, which crosses Deep Springs Valley and below Soldier Canyon, is under consideration as a scenic byway. During the summer season, several tour bussess cross Deep Springs Valley daily, and proceed on to Owens Valley. The route

-clected for its splendid views of unspoiled high desert valley backed by nountains. Many visitors to the area drive state highway 16 Su pvestgaard Pass to the Bristlecone National Forest. Many often continue east on 168 and experience Deep Springs Valley as their first (and perhaps only) view of the Great Basin openness, and derive a feeling of the old Western Frontier. Conspicuous power line towers marching across the valley would spoil this visual experience.

For the same reasons, continuing the transmission line east from Soddier Canyon through Eureka Valley should nob to considered. Eureka Valley is the site of the Eureka Valley is Eureka Valley should nobe considered. Fine the State Valley Sand Dunes National Natural Landmark. This attracts visitors yay of the Watcocha road, which crosses the base of Soddier Canyon. The balance of Eureka Valley beyond the sand dunes is entirely uninhabited and deserves similar protection as that which Death Valley bears.

Closing. Comments. Alternatives exist that should be investigated and tried before resorting to the construction of a new utility corridor and accepting its conservations of the conservation of the conservation of the conservation of much solid left cannot be contained the alternation of much solid left produced by the realized, and would be compromised by this proposed corridor. This utility corridor does not seem to be absolutely essential at this time. Thus, we should leave future generations the option of retaining unsocided land, at less thus the time the conservation of retaining unsocided land, at less that the time.

Sincerely.

Joseph Snewczak

Joseph Szewczak, B.S.E., Ph.D.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 50 (Joseph Szewczak, Deep Springs College)

- 50-1) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-13). Federal agencies do not grant rights-of-way for transmission lines based solely upon a utility's desire to transmit its power to a more lucrative market to assure its financial survival.
- 50-2) See the general response for the corridor study. The majority of modern-day American society demands an almost uninterrupted supply of electrical energy, and utility companies are in the business to meet that demand. The need analysis states that it is almost impossible to predict the performance of protective devices and how they will function at each generating plant as a result of a mass disturbance at any one point in the western U.S. electrical grid. Corridor separation, then, is a prudent design measure that serves to minimize the likelihood of widespread, catastrophic outages.
- 50-3) The corridor study did not address the potential environmental impacts from fossil-fueled power plants, since no specific power generation/power transmission project has been proposed or evaluated. An EIS prepared in response to a proposal would more appropriately address these issues.
- 50-4) The issue of geological risks would be addressed during the environmental analysis of a specific project. Much of the direct impact can be mitigated by evaluating the occurrence of faults within or near the proposed project area, and then locating transmission line towers away from active or potentially active faults. Experience with major transmission lines in areas that have frequent seismic activity has shown that facilities not located on a fault line can generally withstand moderate to severe seismic activity with minimal damage or system failure.

50-4A) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Issues concerning roadless construction, specific impacts to bighorn sheep habitat, and system sabotage would more appropriately be addressed in a site-specific environmental analysis conducted in response to a project proposal.

50-5,6) See the general response for the corridor study.



Natural Resources Defense Council

90 New Montgomery San Francisco, CA 94105 415 777-0220 Faz 415 495-5996

January 15, 1991

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

> Re: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Perguson:

This letter constitutes the comments of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on the above-captioned draft Bishop Resource Management Plan (MMP) and Environmental Ispact Statement (ZEIS). As you say already Environmental Ispace Statement (ZEIS). As you say already organization that has long been concerned specific progenization that has long been concerned specific progenization that has long been concerned specific with the contract of CMPS, including lands in Rishop Resource Area. We have under the jurisdiction of the Bursau of Land Management (ZMF), including lands in Rishop Resource Area. We have the have requirements of federal laws enacted to protect the maintenance of the second of the Second CMPS (MEPA) and the Paderal Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (MEPA) and the Paderal Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (MEPA) and the Paderal Requirements of general policies and requirements of general projects and the Paderal Requirements of general projects and requirements and general projects and requirements are described by the project and t

Overall, we are disappointed by the contents of the draft RPH and EIS. Our comments focus specifically on four issues: 1) the document's organization, or, more precisely, its lack of organization as well as its lack of relevant, essential information; 2) it treatment of existing withdrawals; 3) its treatment of hardrock mining; existing withdrawals; 3) its treatment of hardrock mining; of incorporate by reference the comments of Friends of the Impo, The Mono Lake Committee and The Milderness Society.

In brief, the Bishop EVP and EIS is an extremely confusing and opaque document and, on that ground alone, should be re-organized, revised and recirculated as a new draft, additionally, while we appreciate the agency; a attempt to integrate its review of existing withdrawals with preparation of the EVP as well as its effort to plan for

AND Regulat Paper

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hardrock mineral development, we find that both of these issues have been treated inadequately in the RMP document. We also find that the draft RNP and EIS fail to address the issue of livestock grazing adequately. In what follows, we discuss these inadequacies in detail.

T. The Draft Should Be Withdrawn and Recirculated.

The BLM is required by both MEDR and FLMMA to involve the public in the making of decisions concerning management of the public lands. Thus, it is well-established that one of MEDR's principal purposes was to "Groter ... informed public participation" in federal decisionsaking. 1921, The public participation in federal decisionsaking. 1921, The public participation mandate of FLPMA is even broader: the Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to "give" members of the public "adequate notice and opportunity to comment upon and participate in the formulation of plane 1712(f). Sec. also id., 9, 1739(e).

It is exiomatic that, in order to permit meaningful public participation, plans and EISs must be understandable by readers. The regulations of the council on Environmental Guality (EGG), which are binding on the ELM, direct that EISs "shall" be written "so that decisionmakers and the public can readily understand them." 40 CFR i 150.8. They must consume the council of the counci

The Bishop EIS does not seet these standards. It is organized in such a way that it is is uponsible to understand and track — at least to this reader and undoubtedly to others, including in particular readers who may be not a superior of the same particular readers who have the same particular readers who may be not a superior of the same particular readers into which the Resource Area has been into a superior of the same particular to a superior of the same superior

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 3

51-1 analysis and clear presentation of the alternatives." 40 CORR 1 1502.10. Instead, as illustrated by examples in the same attrement years and the same attrement years and page of the years and the years and years and

Accordingly, we recommend that the draft be withdrawn, reorganized extensively and supplemented with the information described below. Then, it should be rereleased for meaningful public review and comment.

II. The Treatment of Proposed Withdrawale Is Inadequate.

The Bishop Resource Area is to be commended for seeking public comment during its land withdreal review effort and for addressing withdrawals in the RMP. Cf. Laian.v. Mational Mildlife redestrict control of the Mational Mildlife redestrict control of the Mildlife RMP. I seek the Mildlife RMP. I

The BIM's preferred alternative contemplates the revocation of all existing watershed withdrawals in the Resource Area (as do two of the other alternatives). Presently, come 500,000 acres have been withdrawn pursuant to Executive or Congressional orders.

We believe that the proposed blanket revocation of these thirdrawale asy seriously underwine sound management of the outstanding natural resources within or near to the serious that the serious seri

51-1

51-2

Unfortunately, the RMP/EIS document does not reveal what the environmental impacts of revoking these withdrawals are likely to be. Unless the BLM is going to prepare additional NEPA documentation before formally requesting Congress (or the President) to revoke existing withdrawals, the treatment of this issue in this document must be significantly improved to comply with NEPA. Specifically, the document must identify the lands that are currently withdrawn and carefully analyze the impacts that are likely to occur upon revocation. In particular, what is likely to be the impact of opening the presently withdrawn land to entry under the Mining Law of 1872? In addition, if the BIM already has plans for these lands -e.g., that they will be disposed of or traded for other lands, the impacts of implementing these plans must be discussed. And last, but by no means least, the implications of revoking these withdrawals for Mono Lake and Negit Island must be addressed.

On the other hand, if the Bureau intends to comply fully with NEPA's requirements before acting on the proper revocations, then it should so state in the next version should include an unequivocal commitment to the preparation of one or more MEPA documents that analyze the proper statement of the commitment of the co

III. The Treatment of Mining Is Inadequate.

51-3

As far as we have been able to determine, the Bishop RMP is the first California BMP that attempts to plan for the property of the property of the property of the behind in such planning, despite the fact that FIFFA clearly gives the agency the authority to constrain mining activities on the public lands through the land use property of the property of the property of the property of the locatable minerals was promulquated in 1959.

Despite its deficiencies, the instant RND reveals clearly that the Bishop Resource Ares's outstanding natural resources are seriously threatened by hardrock mining activities. That this and other RMPs can and sust control mineral activities on the public lands (along with other uses such as livestock grazing) is not open to question. Mike Fergueon, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 5

51-3

As set forth in the planning guidance, the BLM must, in the planning process, identity lends which vill reasin open to the operation of the mining laws and those which will be closed. BLM Meanal Sections 1644.3Als and 1b. For the lands which remain open, the plans are to "identify my terms, conditions, or other special considerations, if any, that may constrain mining activities." Id., Section 1624.3Al2.

Such constraints may apply to major portions of the resource area, to specific areas within the resource area, or to general types of operations conducted under the mining laws.

Id. The visual resource categories used by the Bishop RNP to, in effect, implement FIPM's prohibition on "unnecessary and undue degradation," 43 U.S.C. § 1732(b), clearly constitute such constraints, and we commend the BLM for clearly stating that "[a]ctions violating VRM classes will not be allowed." RMP, p. 27.

Nonetheless, we are disappointed by the RMP's treatment of mining for several major, interrelated reasons. First, it falls provide the kinds of information referred to by the planning guidance, including, but not limited to,

We recognize that this statement does not preclude amendment of the final RMP to permit an otherwise non-conforming mining operation to go forward. Indeed, the BLM recently recognized that, in the event any proposed mining activity is not in conformance with the applicable land use plan, the plan must be amended in accordance with the planning regulations before the activity is approved. See, e.g., letter dated November 16, 1990 to Mr. Norbert Riedy of The Wildernees Society, from Gordon Knight, BLM (a copy of which is attached). In our view, this procedure must be followed in connection with any proposed mining activity, including those involving pre-existing mining claims and/or valid existing rights. In any event, the BLM's position on this key issue should be unequivocally stated in the RMP to prevent confusion in the future as well as to permit public review. In addition and for the same reasons, the BLM should indicate what, if any, distinctions will be drawn between existing claims and claims that are filed after the plan is finalized.

51-3

cont.

information about mineral potential, the general location of existing mining claims and patents, and data on mineral production. BIM Hamual Section 1624.33A. Second, the RMP did not provide sufficient specific information about the mineral resources of the area or about the various plan constraints. Third, the document fails to provide any explanation of how the impact conclusions for mining splanation of how the impact conclusions for mining sitermative for mining withdrawns; is far too limited.

Because of the RMF's lack of basic information, the discussion of mining is very confusing, to say the least. Thus, for example, as the result of the failure to identify existing claims readers lack baseline information ensential for assessing such predictions as "60% of the withdraw from development due to environmental restrictions." RMF at p. 93. The document provides no clue as to how this percentage (or others) was arrived at or how conclusions about the economic and/or environmental (20%) of development were reached. See. e.g., id. 1217/11/19 of development were reached.

The use of the phrase "effectively withdrawn" as in the statement quoted above also adds to the confusion. Me are aware of no such management option: lands are either withdrawn or bley are not. If the Bureau seriously thinks proposed for withdrawal under the various alternatives cannot be developed under any circumstances (8.5.4, by means of underground mining rather than surface mining), then we believe you should propose to withdraw them in

The document's discussion of the relationship between sning proposals and endangered, threatmend, candidate and sensitive species also requires clarification as do its consistency of the sense of conflict between the Endangered Species Act and mining activities, it was required to protect the federally listed species. Egg. RIM, Furface management of Public Lands Under U.S. Mining Lews -- Final Rulessking, because of the RIM document at which this

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Biehop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 7

51-3

cont.

obligation is acknowledged. Even more importantly, we could not determine from the impact analyses what, if any effects existing and proposed any expect any extended to the control of the country of the control of the country of th

which, if any, habitate of any federally protected, candidate or state-listed species that are found in this Resource Area have been proposed for withdrewal? Why heaven't sore habitate been proposed, which was a substantial to the second of the second se

It is also not clear from the BMD/RIS which if any constraints in addition to the VBM classifications are being proposed by the BMT. For example, are the seasonal prescriptions are the seasonal prescriptions and the VBM classifications are the sole constraints, why does the Bureau believe that they are all that is necessary to protect the extraordinary resources of this area, especially given the other seasons that are available. See, e.g., BMM Hammal

what its more, even if the VRM guidelines are the sole constraints, the impact of their use is extremely unclear; how can the BLM reconcile its proposal to designate the Bodle Bowl as an ACEC and Class I VRM in order to protect its status as a Mational Landmark, RMD, p. 65, with its simultaneous proposal to leave the area open to siming? Id. at 66. Specifically what thing extivities constitute 263: laited management activity? 21, Appendix 4, p.

51-3

As a result of the failure to provide relevant information, independent evaluation of the Bureau's methodologies and meaningful comment on its impact conclusions are readers of this document to take its conclusions on faith it must provide "evidence that the ... necessary environmental analyses" have been conducted and allow

With regard to the alternatives involving mining, we submit that the preferred alternative's proposal to withdraw a mere 1,900 additional acres within the Bishon Resource Area is patently inadequate and clearly unjustified. First, according to the RMP, retention of the status quo (Alternative 1) calls for withdrawal of 30,000 acres. See, e.g., Table 2-1, RMP at 37. How can it be that present management is more environmentally protective than the preferred alternative, especially when the latter is supposed to "provide for development ... while protecting or enhancing environmental values"? Id., p. 35. Why has BLM decided to be less protective of the public's resources in the future? How can reducing the 30,000 acre total by 28,100 acres be described as achieving a "balanced" resolution of the issues? Id., p. 49. Why does the RMP document fail to provide any explanation of why or how the 1,900 acre total that is included in Alternative 4 was arrived at?

Moreover, although four alternatives are considered, the fact is there are only two withdraws options: withdraw an additional 30,000 acres or withdraw only 1,900 acres. Consideration of only two options plainly does not satisfy the BUM's obligation under NEFA to consider a "reasonable 2.2 at 2.2

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 9

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For example, the RMP/EIS could consider specific actions that would specifically protect federally listed species from existing or proposed mining activities as part of one or more of the alternatives considered. It could consider actions that would protect state-listed species from these activities, given the policy of the collection from the activities, given the policy of the coll activities, given the policy of the collection from the extended of the collection of the col

Not only the failure to consider withdrawal and other management options, but also to explain how the alternatives that were considered were derived are inconsistent with NEPA's requirements. See BIM Manual H-1790-1, Chapter V, Section Al(e)(2).

III. The Treatment of Grazing Is Inadequate.

51-4

We are extremely disappointed by the treatment of livestock grazing in this RMP. While we do not believe that it is necessary to change valid management decisions made in the past, we submit that the BLM must do more than merely assert that those decisions are valid: it must provide information that will justify its determination to perpetuate them. No such information has been provided here; on the contrary, the RMP document contains information that suggests that previously-arrived at decisions deserve reconsideration. Finally, we have serious questions about the proposed grazing management actions, including specifically the BLM's decision to rely virtually entirely on a new, untested notion -- the DPC concept -- to remedy grazing problems that still persist despite the passage of more than nine and 1/2 and eight and 1/2 years since grazing EISs were completed on allotments in this resource area.

The RMP incorporates by reference the grazing decisions made on the basis of the Benton-Owen Valley and Bodde-Coleville EISs (completed respectively on September 14, 1981 and September 17, 1982) and, in particular, "stocking levels, [and] seasons of use...." RMP, p. 24. Those decisions, according to the document, "are still valid." Idd., p. 25. Any changes "necessary" will be "made after the RMP, using established procedures based on vegetation

51-4 cont. and stream condition monitoring" using resource condition objectives established in the RMP. Id., p. 24.

Morsover, comparison of condition data contained in the earlier EISs and in Table 3-7 of the Bishop document reveals that eaclogical conditions have not improved at reveals that exclosive the properties of the reveal to the reveal that at least some key riportogueser is the reveletion that at least some key riportogueser. But the descrined significantly since 1980. RMP, p. 132. See also described and the secondary and accordance in the secondary and the secondary and the secondary secondary and the secondary secondary and the secondary seco

Given the age of the earlier grazing ETSs, the deterioration in wildlife conditions and the lack of improvement in ecological conditions, the BH bears a heavy burden to justify its refusal to re-cases allocation and other decisions previously made. Indeed, allocation and other decisions previously made. Indeed, the CEQ has noted that "ETSs that are more than 5 years old should be carefully reexamined to determine if" they are still current. CEQ. "Forty Most Asked Questions

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 11

51-4

Concerning CEO's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, 46 Fed. Reg. 1802s, 18036 (March 27, 1981). Moreover, the BLM's own planning guidance provides that old decisions can only be retained under circumstances that are not found here, given the deterioration in wildlife habitat conditions. See BLM Hanual, 88 1818.21A

The BUP, however, does not acknowledge any of these factors and makes no meaningful effort to justify its retention of existing MFP decisions. It merely states beliefly that "development or revision of 10 AMPs and large and the state of th

The EMM's failure to provide supportive information and other data justifying retention of old decisions is distributed by the supportive formation should be distributed by the support of the support o

Moreover, the Bureau should have available extensive amounts of monitoring data that were collected for purposes of evaluating the degree to which the old decisions in both EIS areas met management objectives.

We have attached a copy of this memorandum to these comments for your convenience, although we understand that its contents have alrawdy been presented to the BIM. By substiting a copy at this time, we wish the memorandum to become part of the official administrative record.

Our belief in the availability of these data and evaluations stess in part from the fact that the sonitoring program in the Bishop Resource Area has been favorably reviewed on at least one occasion in the past. See Resorandus dated October 9, 1987, to the part of the second of the Dateriot."

51-4 cont. Indeed, the "five year clock" that current policy provides for making denisions about stocking levels, expired in FY 1987 for the Benton-Owens Valley HIS area, and in FY 1988 in the Bodit-Coleville area: Accordingly, the Bill should nonitoring data collected as of those dates. It should also have made any management changes necessary to remedy problems revealed by those data. In addition, it may well also have made any management changes necessary to remedy problems revealed by those data. In addition, it may well make the bureau should be able assily to desonate that that its previously arrived at management decisions deserve to be retained - if in fact they do. And, once having done that, it could -- and should -- develop and changed.

Even assuming that the earlier decisions remain sound, we submit that the BLM is obligated to provide more information about the greating program in the Bishop Resource Area than is provided in Appendix 5. Noticher that Appendix with any real sense of the progress the BLM has made since the earlier decisions were arrived at.

Among the questions the MRP does not provide answers to are the following: How many of the AMPs to be developed have actually been developed and how many of those have actually been developed and how many of those have revision have actually been revised and how many of those have been fully implemented? How many and which range improvements have been carried out? How much of the improvements have been carried out? How much of the varthe results of the studies? What are the current livestock carrying capacities of the allotments in the resource area and do current livestock numbers neet or domed those entimates! In this, neet-fit stocking rates on Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 13

51-4

the basis of monitoring data gathared since the applicable BIS was completed? In which allockames (other than the BIS was completed? In which allockames (other than the state of the state of the state of the state of the state because of What other management changes were made in which allockamets? What kinds of monitoring data show?

In short, readers of this document are not provided with namewer to either of two critically important quastions: "Has the BLM done what it said it would do?" and "What have been the resulter?" Clearly hamy individuals the organized provided by the company of the company of the public lands in this Resource Area and as taxpayers, they are entitled to receive it. Only providing this information can the BLM justify redunition of past or its management actions to the public.

51-5

In addition to finding that the RMF/RIS lacks mecessary inforaction, we are extraoaly concerned about the approach to conside amangament the Resource Area is now proposing to undertake. In fact, in our view, the RMF document raises many more questions about the proposed use of DPCs than it answers.

For example, the RMP/EIS provides no information at all about how the DPC definitions in Appendix 1 were developed? Who drafted them? How, if at all, were members of the general public involved in their development? How were the "key vegetation types" selected for the DPCs which were defined? RMP, p. 29. Why have only about "30% of the Bureau land in the resource area" had DPCs defined? Id. What criteria were used to select those lands and who was involved in their application to the BLM-administered lands in this planning area? Which are the allotments for which DPCs have been defined and which are the specific lands within those allotments that have DPCs? What is happening to the remainder? When, if ever, will they get DPCs? By what method did the BLM determine the impacts of adopting the new DPC management strategy? Why does the BLM think this approach will work when nothing -- apparently -- that has been done in the past eight to nine years has had any effect?

Dates obtained from BIM documents on file in NRDC's San Francisco office.

⁵ Appendix 5 provides information about allotment names and numbers, AUMs, Category, Kind of Livestock, Acres and Season of Use.

51-5

The NDF document also fails to make clear how DPC management is to be achieved. First, the role of the DPC definitions must be clarified. Are they mandatory, like definitions must be clarified. For the most part, the document disregarded on occasion? For the most part, the document seems to contemplate that the DPC goals will not be seem to contemplate that the DPC goals will not be seem to contemplate that the DPC goals will not be seemed by the DPC goals will not be seemed to contemplate that the DPC goals will not be seemed to contemplate the DPC goals will not goals will not

Second, the time frame and the monitoring program both need to be clearified. Now that DPCs have been defined, what specific management actions are needed to implement them and how long will it take to carry out these actions? When are these goals to be met? Or, to put it another way, how many years does the BLM propose to allow to elapse before it decides whether changes are "necessary" to achieve these goals? Id., p. 24. How often will!

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management January 15, 1991 Page 15

51-5

areas with DPCs be monitored? What methods (other than soil trampling and forage utilization) will be used? The provision of such information is required by the planning regulations. 43 CPR § 1601.0-6.

We are also concerned about the cost of the new management -- and not just because the RMP provides no information about implementation costs or what will happen if the needed funds are unavailable. It is obvious that DPC management will be even more labor-intensive and expensive than BLM's current monitoring program. This fact adds emphasis to the need for the RMP document to provide information about current monitoring efforts. In addition, even assuming current monitoring efforts in the Bishop Resource Area are adequate, the BLM cannot rely on that fact alone to justify reliance on a new and expanded monitoring program. The BLM has to demonstrate that the proposed program is realistic, given the extensive evidence of inadequate monitoring by BLM in California and other states,' as well as the exclusive reliance that is being placed on it to improve degraded conditions. If the needed funds are not available, even more damage than has already been caused by improperly managed livestock will occur.

51-6

Our final concerns about the proposed grasing management practices involve riparian and water quality issues. It appears that, in at least one management area, Bridgeport, riparian resources will suffer significant adverse impacts are inconsistent with the Bureau's "Riparian and impacts are inconsistent with the Bureau's "Riparian and proposed and proposed and proposed and proposed and proposed and proposed are inconsistent with the Bureau's "Riparian and proposed are inconsistent with the Bureau's "Riparian and proposed and propose

on a related matter, the RPS should explain why the BHY wishes to allow utilisation to second the recommended level of twas got five years on an allotsent-wide basis, before doing anything about it. Frankly, the 600 limit proposed is already 100 higher than the standard utilization rule and the dasage that could could be extreme. Similarly, sewere here could examperiod could be extreme. Similarly, sewere here could evel will be bittenbrush if use in excess of the proposed level will be tolerated for five years. Overutilization of riparian areas and bit because the could be seven to the could be seven to all the seven that the seven the seve

^{&#}x27;(...continued)

See, e.g., Wald, Johanna and Alberswerth, David, Our Alling Public Rancelands: 5till Ailing! -- Condition Report 1982 (National Wildlife Federation and Natural Resources Defense Council), pp. 10-12.

51-6

appears inconsistent with at least two "standard operating procedures," numbers 7 and 8. Since neither number 7 nor number 8 are "standard" in our experience, they should be abandoned in favor of providing protection to riparian resources because of their significance.

As indicated above, the RMP reveals that livestock grazing is now causing water quality problems (as it was when the previous RISs were published). It suggests that at least in some instances, violations of applicable water quality critaris are resulting from current practices, gas RMP, and the RMP document. In fact, the clash water Act requires that the Bureau modify or forego practices that cause violations of water quality standards. Therefore, the document should disclose whether in fact violations are correlated practices that vill reseafy those violations.

Conclusion

We regret that these comments are so negative.
Monetheless, we are convinced that the BM could—and
should—have done bettering the BM could—and
should—have done bettering the BM could—and
should—have bettering the both should—and
considered—and provide the information set out above.
Among other benefits, such a document will permit members
of the public to determine whether or not Alternative 3 is
considered—a determination which is precluded by the
present document's severe deficiencies. In short, a
revised document will enable the public to play the
and NEPA contemplate.

Thank you in advance for consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Dohama TWold

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 51 (Natural Resources Defense Council)

51-1) Public participation in the development of the draft was extraordinary; please refer to the "Overview of the Process" at the beginning of this chapter. The Bishop Resource Area took several extra steps in addition to standard procedures to meet NEPA requirements. One was revising our planning criteria, based on public and internal comments; distributing them to our mailing list of about 650 addresses in April 1989; then, based on comments received, revising and distributing them again in June. Another extra step involved our pre-DEIS workshops to discuss with the public our tentative preferred alternative. A number of changes were made based on input received at these workshops.

The draft RMP/EIS was distributed to a mailing list of about 700. We have considered comments from all who came to our office, called, or wrote. We received a remarkable 638 comment letters in response to the draft, several of them over 40 pages. Each comment has been carefully read, and most of the letters are responded to directly in this document. The comments have led to many changes in the document and the preferred alternative.

Even the best RMP/EISs are difficult to follow. We made some conscious decisions about the organization of the draft to acilitate review/understanding by lay readers. For example, some readers have indicated they appreciated Chapter 4 being organized by resource rather than by alternative. This change may have made it more difficult to follow for planners and others already familiar with EISs. Most commentors who expressed an opinion on this felt the document was of average or slightly better understandability.

Thank you for pointing out some of the deficiencies in the document. Many of your points were valid. We have responded to each and believe we have corrected them all in the final. Due largely to the amount of public input already obtained, we feel that rather than relissuing the draft, it would be more prudent to issue the improved final and begin managing the resources.

- 51-2) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 51-3) Page 4, par. 3, 4. We agree that the RMP should guide mining and other activities on Public Lands. That is our intent and we feel the RMP does this. However, we are not attempting to address every conceivable activity which might occur on any one area, but rather to paint a picture of what we want the area to be and establish criteria which any potential project would have to meet.

Page 5, par. 1-3. Thank you for your comment; it has been noted,

Page 5, Footnote. We see no distinction between existing claims and claims filed after the plan is finalized. This is clarified in the final document. We also clarify our intent to not allow actions which violate VPIM and other prescriptions.

Page 5, par. 4; pg 6, par. 1. We recognize that the draft did not contain mineral potential, claim locations, and mineral production information which might have been helpful. This was not a requirement (BLM manual 1624.33A); however, mineral potential and production information is included in the final.

We have rewritten the minerals portion of the impacts analysis section of the final to more clearly show Impacts to minerals due to yearlong protection areas, ACECs, WSAs, and VRM prescriptions. Impacts are primarily of economic consequence to potential mineral development.

Also see the general minerals response (p.5-13) which covers some of your concerns,

Page 6, par. 2. The minerals section has been rewritten in the final to clarify this information.

Page 6, par. 3. The phrase 'effectively withdrawn' was an unfortunate choice of words and has been removed from the final EIS. Where we have made decisions which eliminate mining, we are proposing withdrawals. In other areas there may

be some economic impacts to potential mineral development due to stricter environmental guidelines. It is conceivable that these prescriptions may raise the cost of tertain types of mining to the point of making them uneconomical under current gold prices and using current technology. However, our intent in these areas is to protect certain resources values, not to preclude mining.

Page 6, par. 4; p.7, par. 1. There are no known mineral activities which would affect any threatened or endangered species within the Resource Area. Responsibility for T & E species is a matter of policy which is addressed under the Planning Guidelines on p.26, item 14 of the draft RMP/EIS. This is also in the final.

Page 7, par. 2. Habitats of threatened species have not been proposed for withdrawal because they are in areas of low mineral potential. Some areas of no surface occupancy have been proposed where high potential for geothermal activity potentially conflicts with threatened species habitat. Other restrictive guidelines which are being proposed were considered adequate to protect resources from unnecessary degradation. It was not fet necessary to withdraw all areas from mineral entry — see the mineral withdrawal discussion in the general minerals response.

Page 7, par. 3. VRM and other prescriptions are applicable to all activities, including mining, recreation, wildlife enhancement projects, etc. This is more clearly stated in the final.

Page 7, par. 4. Decisions for the Bodie Mountain Management Area which were on p.65 of the draft PIMP/EIS have been rewritten to clarify the intent to protect Bodie and the National Historic Landmark. Any activity, mining or otherwise, allowed in the area would be required to meet certain standards to be developed as "limits of acceptable change." The goal of these standards is to maintain the integrity of the nationally significant historic values. These standards will be developed after completion of the RMP, in consultation with the SHPO and interested publics. The statement "very limited management activity" has been deleted in the final. See general Bodie response (p.5-5).

Page 8, par. 1. The impact analysis for minerals has been rewritten and now includes more detail on the logic leading to the conclusions. We hope this makes the analysis easier to follow.

Page 8, par. 2. The proposed 30,000 acres of withdrawals in Alternative I were primarily in the Alabama Hills, an area of low mineral potential. The final decision contains 3,100 acres. With these proposed withdrawals and other environmental prescriptions, Alternative 4 is more environmentally protective than the existing situation.

Our rationale for fewer withdrawals than the 30,000 acres is that while withdrawals may protect resources from future claims, most of our areas with potential conflict are already under claim and therefore subject to valid existing rights. We believe that we can be more effective using management prescriptions to deal with these potential problems from mineral development and at the same time address other potential resource uses. The withdrawal proposal is more clearly explained in the final. Also see the general minerals response for a discussion on potential withdrawals.

Page 8, par. 3; p.9, par. 1, 2. We believe that the draft contains a reasonable range of alternatives. The figures in Alternatives 4 and 3 were suggested as reasonable methods of protecting wildlife, recreational and historic values. We have no mineral

activity which is threatening any listed or proposed species (state or federal). Other management prescriptions such as no surface occupancy or seasonal protection were developed to protect sensitive resources from a variety of potential activities which might impact them.

51-4) The Bishop Resource Area conducted extensive rangeland monitoring during the period of 1983 through 1988. In late 1984 to early 1985 assessment of the data was performed prior to issuance of the proposed third year grazing preference adjustments for the Benton-Owens Valley EIS area. This same assessment was performed in late 1986 for the Bodie-Coleville EIS area.

The assessments revealed that no third year adjustments were necessary in Benton-Owens Valley and no initial reductions were necessary in Bodie-Coleville. It was decided that AUM reductions would not be the sole solution or most effective means of eliminating over-utilization.

It became readily apparent from the monitoring data that overutilization was not occurring on a large percentage of acreage within each allotment but was occurring at unacceptable levels in most riparian zones and aspen groves. Those conditions were of greater management concern than the condition of upland rangelands. Also the riparian zones and aspen stands respond to change more quickly when management changes are implemented.

The need was to initiate changes, solely or in combination, in grazing use patterns, permittee management practices, and permittee maintenance of range improvement projects. Development of new projects (principally water and fences), control of grazing trespass, and intensified monitoring on critical areas were also necessary.

Concurrent with the decision on what changes the Bureau needed to make was the decision that we would meet our land use objectives without further AUM reductions. Consequently the Bishop Resource Area initiated the Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management Plan process to deal with the more critical resources and concerns on selected allotments in Bodie-Coleville.

The following information summarizes the progress made in implementing previous land use plan decisions emanating from the grazing EISs;

Benton-Owens Valley

- 1. Eleven allotments received AUM increases. (1,298 AUMs)
- 2. Twenty-five allotments received AUM decreases. (1,479 AUMs)
- Two allotments had grazing preference cancellations. (582 AUMs)
- 4. Of six AMPs planned, one was completed.
- Both planned AMP revisions were completed and are fully implemented.
- Seventeen of twenty-nine planned water projects were completed.
- 7. Four exclosures were constructed; one exclosure was rebuilt.

Bodie-Coleville

- Five allotments had full grazing preference cancellations. (588 AUMs)
- Three allotments had partial grazing preference suspensions. (1,307 AUMs)
- 3. No allotments received AUM increases.
- 4. No allotments were scheduled to received AMP revisions.
- 5. Of fourteen AMPs planned, seven were developed.
- 6. One of five wells was completed.
- 7. Four of twenty-six springs were developed.
- 8. All thirteen reservoirs were completed.
- 9. Twelve of thirty-eight miles of fence were completed.
- 10. Five of fourteen pipelines were completed,
- 11. Ten exclosures were constructed, five exclosures were rebuilt,

Since 1981 there has been a 6% decrease in AUMs authorized for grazing use through implementation of land use plan decisions. A comparison of the change in ecological condition from 1981 to 1991 can be found in Table 3-1 in the final.

- 51-5) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 51-6) We agree that if riparian resources were to suffer significant adverse impacts under the preferred alternative, this would be inconsistent with the Bureau's riparian management policy. However, we feel the RIMP has been very responsive to riparian concerns in the resource area.

In the Bridgeport Management Area, a minimum of 75% of the riparian resource will be managed to meet Desired Plant Community goals for this important vegetation type. Also, significant portions of the 3 major streams (Green Creek, Dog Creek, and Virginia Creek) in this management are will receive additional protection under interim management guidelines for streams under Will dand Scenic River review (Appendix 3). As stated in Table 2-2, "riparian-aquatic habitat conditions would measurably improve" in this management area. The statement that "severe use of herbaceous forage on 25% of riparian" would occur does not negate the anticipated improvement to 75% of the riparian resource in this area.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) #7 and 8 (under Grazing Management Practices, draft RMP) were intended to be complimentary to yearlong protection of these resources. SOP #7 was intended to provide an option for corridor fencing in situations where other management was not providing the desired response in riparian habitat condition. Since the Bureau already has this option, #7 was removed in the final RMP. SOP #8 was intended to provide direction to remove existing livestock watering facilities from riparian zones. This is clarified in the final. In addition, livestock watering facilities will normally not be placed within 1/4 mile of riparian areas as per SOP #1. We feel these SOPs support our effort to improve riparian habitat conditions in the resource area.

Although streams in areas regularly grazed by livestock have higher levels of bacteria, nutrients and sediment, none of these streams are used for domestic purposes. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has not designated domestic use as a beneficial use for these streams. If it had, primary drinking water standards, which are federally enforced by EPA, would apply. There is a difference between water quality standards and criteria: A water quality criterion is a concentration of a constituent that, when not exceeded, will protect an organism, organism community, or a designated use with an adequate degree of safety. Criteria are not federally enforceable and are used as guidelines. As noted on p.129 of the draft, sediment is the most pervasive form of pollution in these streams; measures for improving riparian conditions (DPCs, etc.) will decrease sediment. Therefore, these streams do not violate water quality standards under the Clean Water Act.

F. M. FULSTONE, INC. Farming and Cattle Ranching P.O. Box 34 Smith, Nevada 89430 (702) 465-2341

January 12, 1991

Michael Ferguson Area Manager U.S.D.A. Bureau of Land Management 787 N Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

This letter responds to the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:

INTRODUCTION

F. M. Fulstone, Inc. ("FNF Inc.") has been a permittee since 1930 in the Rodie Hills Management Area. This range is a critical part of FNF Inc.'s cattle operation. Over the past sixty years, FKF Inc. has established a cow-calf herd which is maintained by a complementary use of winter and summer ranges. The present balance in FMF Inc.'s cattle operation by this complementary use of winter and summer ranges, long developed over the many years, is the connertence of FMF Inc.'s operation. FWF Inc.'s use of winter and summer ranges depends primarily on its permits for grazing on public lands.

The preferred alternative set forth in the Bishop Resource
Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement ("Plan and

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EIS"), which would apply to the Bodie Hills Management Area, offers no benefit to PMF Inc.'s operation. The proposed Desired Plant Communities ("DPC") and the changes in the percentages of usable forage would in effect reduce PMF Inc.'s ADMs on the Bodie Hills and Potato Peak allotments by approximately 600 head of cattle, representing fifty percent of PMF Inc.'s cow herd. By restructuring periods of use and forcing a change from cattle to sheep, the present balance between PMF Inc.'s winter and summer rances would be destroyed.

52-1

Impairment of the cattle operation of PMF Inc., and other cattle ranchers affected by the Plan, impacts not only these ranchers but impacts the Wolfare of our nation and the local community of Mono County. The cattle operation of PMF Inc. and other cattle ranchers affected by the Plan produce food for this nation. Range permits support the first critical stage of beer production: cown and calves. Impairment of this stage of the cattle industry will affect the cont of beef. Those who will ultimately bear the impact of the increased cost of food will be the boorest and medicate.

Use of the public ranges by cattle ranchers is an aconomic benefit to Mono County, supporting the payment of unsecured property taxes to the county.

PMF Inc. has been committed to working through the Comprehensive Range Management Plan Process (CRMP) to improve the condition of the range. Once the vilderness study area moratorium was imposed in 1980, PMF Inc. could not complete projects implementing good range management practices such as developing watering holes, building cross fences and enhancing range conditions with controlled burns. If it were not for the wildlife study area moratorium, FMF Inc.'s ranges would be further developed in line with the proposed range management policy agreed upon seweral years ago.

The preferred alternative number 4 is not fair to the livestock permittee. Mone of the concerns and suggestions that were presented by FMF Inc., or other cattle ranchers, at the planning hearings were incorporated into the preferred alternative number 4. In fact, only recommendations that will be detrimental to the livestock industry and detrimental to consumers of livestock commodities have been incorporated into the preferred alternative number 4. The recreationalists at the hearings expressly stated that they did not object to the presence of livestock on the ranges. Hany recreationalists enjoy seeing livestock and experiencing a part of America's cultural heritage.

It is imperative that the Plan and EIS be revised to consider the alternative of complementing reasonable goals for enhanced wildlife and recreation with good range management practices for livestock. Congress mandates that the public lands be managed on the basis of the multiple use and sustained yield. This means management of the public lands and their various tenource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American

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52-3 cont.

52-4

people. By creating impractical and nonviable goals for cattle grazing in the Bodie Hills Management Area, the BLM is, in effect, eliminating cattle grazing. If alternative 4 is adopted as proposed, the multiple was concept will be violated.

II. OBJECTIONS

A. Inadequacy of EIS. The EIS is inadequate because it is inaccurate in its factual presumptions and analysis. incomplete and conclusory in detail, and unreasonable in its factual conclusions, and it fails to be objective. The Plan and EIS, like the hearings conducted by the BLM, is biased against the livestock ranchers. It fails to give rational consideration to the interests of the livestock ranchers. As a result, the Plan does not give the ultimate decision maker an opportunity to weigh properly and fairly the effects of the Plan. The livestock industry is a significant user of the range. Its interests are protected under the multiple use concept established by Congress. Because of the effect of alternative number 4 on the livestock industry, the Plan and ETS fail to promote the purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of encouraging productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and stimulating the health and welfare of man.

The Plan identifies the key issues as recreation, wildlife, minerals, and land ownership and authorizations. While the land ownership and authorization category includes "special use leases and permits," the Cumulative Impact Summary set forth in Table 8-1 and Comparative Impacts of Alternatives set forth in Table 2-2

provide no analysis of the impact of the four alternative plans on the Hvestock industry. The Plan deliberately avoids appropriate analysis of the impact of the Plan on the livestock industry, the impact of the Plan on the production of food and the environmental impact of removing livestock from the range. What will be the livestock reductions in preferred alternative 47 what are the impacts, economically and socially and environmentally, on this loss of food production? These impacts should be addressed in your Plan and ETS.

Cattle have been a part of the range for over a century and are a part of the ecosystem. Among the environmental impacts of preferred alternative number 4 that have not been considered are the following: (1) increased fire risk, (2) non-development of water resources that benefit flora and fauna, (3) loss of aesthetic value to recreationalists and (4) the symbiotic relationship of cattle and wildlife, such as the mage grouse. Why haven't these impacts been identified and considered in your Plan and ELS?

8. Factual inaccuracies. The Plan's representations regarding (1) the conditions necessary for healthy ripartan areas, aquatic streams, and watershed, (2) the conditions necessary for vilelife habitats and the sigration of vilelife, and (3) the conditions of aspen groves and meadows are inaccurate. A more detailed discussion of much condition are set forth in the report submitted by Resource Concepts. Such report is incorporated by reference into this document.

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52-4

c. Failura to include management of livestock grazing in the management theme of the RMP alternative 4. The preferred alternative number 4 fails to make any reference to management of livestock grazing. (pages 63 and 64). With over a century of livestock use and significant improvements in range management practices in recent years within in the Bodie Hills Management Area, it is arbitrary and unfair not to recognize the management of livestock grazing as a management them in the preferred alternative. Exclusion of livestock in arbitrary since good livestock management is compatible with wildlife and recreational goals. How do you reach your conclusion that livestock grazing is not compatible with wildlife and recreational goals. Places explain your reasoning in the Plan and ETS.

52-6

52-7

Under the analysis on the impact on livestock grazing (pages 200-202), the Plan states:

With an emphasio on development of dispersed recreation opportunities, more of the recreating public will be exposed to livestock grazing. It is expected that recreational users will exert more pressure for elimination of livestock grazing where grazing conflicts with recreational values.

This presumption by the BLM fails to accurately represent the comments and concerns expressed at the two hearings that I attended. At the hearings that I attended, recreationalists stood up and told the BLM representatives that they had no roblems with livestock on the ranges and that they in fact enjoyed seeing the livestock. Frequently, tourists and recreationalists stop and take pictures when they see cattle drives and cowboys at work. If there are conflicts, the Plan

fails to specify what the conflicts are and how these conflicts outweigh the value to recreationalists of experiencing a piece of

D. <u>Desired Plant Communities</u>. Preferred alternative number 4 would establish DPC goals that are unreasonable and based on erroneous factual data. The impact of the proposed DPC would significantly reduce the habitat for livestock in the Bodie Hills Management Area. The combined effects of the proposed DPC would restrict all livestock grazing, thereby eliminating any grazing of cattle on the Bodie Hills Management Area.

The DPC goal for ground cover is a proposed increase to 60% from the estimated present goal of 20%-30%. This increase is unrealistic. It cannot be supported by the natural condition of the land and weather patterns. This proposed increase in the goal for ground cover is arbitrary and unsupported by any credible factual data. We understand this criteria has been eliminated. If in fact this criteria has not been eliminated. If in fact this criteria has not been eliminated from the Plan, then the data relied on by the BIM for its conclusion that an increase in ground cover is desirable and possible should be included in the Plan and EIS and we would like to be provided with that data.

The proposed DPC goals on wet meadows to improve habitat for mule deer, black bear and small nammals and birds, and to reduce erosion is unreasonable. The proposed DPC goals would in-effect restrict livestock on the meadows within two miles of the sage grouse leks. These meadows are the main source of drinking water.

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52-10

52-10 cont. and a main source of forage on the cattle allotment. This restriction is unreasonable because the cattle do not disturb the sage grouse unless driven as a herd through the leks. In fact, cattle grazing benefits the sage grouse habitats because the cattle eat down the coarse older grass to make very for tender sprouts of new grass. The sage grouse eat the tender new grass and do not eat the coarse older grass. The BLM erromeously presumes that livestock grazing and wildlife are constantly in conflict. In addition, what is your scientific data supporting the need for a 2 mile radius surrounding leks for the protection of made grouse? The area of protection should not be determined by the Plan but should be determined at the CRUP process level. What is your reason for addressing the area of protection in the Plan instead of at the CRUP process level?

52-11

are unreasonable. The Plan proposes that at least 4 inches of rendidal herbaceous plant height romain at the end of the growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later. In many instances the vegetation will barely reach 4 inches even with no utilization by livestock or wildlife. This DPC goal would in effect preclude cattle from grazing on the wetlands. What is your scientific data for requiring 4 inches of plant height? Please include this data in the Plan and ETS.

The proposed DPC goals for springs and associated wetlands

52-12

The proposed DPC goals for riparian areas is unreasonable.
The Plan proposes that a minimum of 70% of the stream should be shaded by vegetation and that at least 6 inches of residual

52-12 so

horbaccous plant height must remain at the end of the growing neason or at the time livestock is turned off, whichever is later. This DPC goal would be an unrealistic goal for the natural conditions, with or without livestock grazing. The EIS is inadequate because it fails to include livestock as an indicator species. Why hasn't livestock been included as an indicator species?

52-13

E. Stabilization and restoration of selected strams
channels. The plan fails to consider or evaluate the
environmental, legal and economic impacts that the proposed
improvements would have on the Walker River Irrigation District
and downstream water users. Historically, the streams in this
area have had a very limited ability to support a fish
population. The Plan and EIS fail to set forth and consider with
sufficient detail the impacts on the livestock industry or the
practicality of implementing the proposed improvements to the
quality of aguatic babilits.

The increase in "base flow and channel vater storage capacity" could alter the historic and natural capacity of the streams to the detriment of downstream water users. How would you increase the base flow? How would you channel water storage capacity? What are the environmental and economic impacts of these actions?

The creation of an aquatic environment to support fish and invertebrate species which does not already presently exist threatens to impair the interests of downstream water rights

users and the downstream environment. What would be the environmental impacts on the downstream species and the economic impacts on downstream water right users? Please identify and consider this in the Plan and EIS.

52-13

cont.

52-14

The Plan fails to assess the impact on the livestock industry of the goal of reducing summer water temperatures in streams. Reducing water temperatures requires planting of trees and willows along the stream heds restricting access by cattle and other animals. The Plan has failed to consider the enormous swings between wet and dry years. What are the impacts on the livestock and other animals? Please identify and consider these impacts in the Plan and EIS.

Maintaining water quality good amough for human use in all streams mentioned is incompatible with livestock grazing and enhancement of wildlife. It is also simply unrealistic. Have you considered the impact on livestock and wildlife in the Plan and EIS. Please identify and consider these impacts in the Plan and EIS.

P. Visual Resource Kanagement. The VMR classifications are improperly subjective. The preferred alternative 4 requires VRM II for travel routes. This classification would inhibit the ability to have a productive range management plan. As written, VRM II and VRM III will eliminate potential for future burn ross, water development, fencing, salting, and adequate maintenance of livestock or private development on private lands. This would create an economic hardship in private landowners.

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- The Bodie Road is already paved with reflectors. Fences
 have been visible for years from this road and give an historical
 nostalgia to visitors that is harmonicus with their trip to
 Bodie. The addition of a low visibility fence for livestock
 management, serving to prevent cattle from roaming on to the
 road, does not detract from the landscape. The mubjectivity of
 the VRM classifications would enable the BLM to be arbitrary in
 restricting productive range management of livestock. Also,
 livestock is a part of the visual heritage of this area.
- G. New roads and trails for recreation. The plan proposes to develop mountain bike, foot and horse trails and 40D routes for recreational purposes. These activities should be coordinated through the CRM process because policy changes can adversely affect wildlife habitat and livestock grazing. Fencing selected primitive camping areas from livestock is unnecessary and frivolous. The recreationalists expressly stated at the hearings that they did not object to the presence of cattle in the ranges. Also, fencing off small areas is fatal to calves who become trapped in the fenced off areas. Furthermore, it creates a less than natural environment. What facts support your conclusion that fencing selected primitive areas from livestock is necessary?
- N. Changing allochments from cattle to sheen grazing. The Change of livestook permits from cattle to sheep would impact FMF Inc. by reducing its herd by 50%. The change would not improve the management of the range. The impact on the environment as a

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52-14

cont.

result of this change from cattle to sheep is not adequately set

52-16
cost.

change? Please explain the impact on the environment of such a
change? Please explain the impact on the environment of such a

52-17

I. Acquisition of more tederal lands. The acquisition of 5,725 acres of private land under preferred alternative 4 is excessive in light of the 127,649 acres in the Bodie Hills already owned by the federal government. A majority of the land proposed for acquisition is water righted and the best land in the area, including riparian areas, aspen grows and natural springs. Once acquired the rest of the private property would be without value. In addition, it will reduce the tax base in Nono County. Alternatively, the proposal to dispose of 62 acres of BIM land for residential expansion would benefit the local COMMUNITY and enable productive use of such property.

MF Inc. encourages you to thoroughly analyze its concerns and suggestions along with those of Resource Concepts to modify your preferred alternate 4, in order that livestock greating will not be severely impacted in the Bishop Resource Management Plan. PMF Inc. strongly supports the multiple use of our public lands. FMF inc. 's choice is to use alternative 1 and to work through the CMM process for the continued improvement and management of the

ranges. Thank you for considering our concerns and comments. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your responses to our questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

F. M. FULSTONE, INC.

Richard N. Fulstone, Preside

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 52 (Richard Fulstone, F.M. Fulstone Inc.)

52-1,2,3,4) The definitions of various Desired Plant Communities (DPCs) describe the composition and structural arrangement of particular vegetation within a vegetation community. These are objectives we seek for more optimal conditions. Although they may directly be of greater benefit to wildlife, livestock may also benefit from these improved conditions.

The DPC objectives were not determined on the basis of forage production (i.e. AUMs); therefore, we do not anticipate changes in percentages of useable forage (loss of AUMs) as necessary to achieve a DPC objective. Reducing AUMs would not, in and of itself, accomplish the objective. A redistribution of livestock grazing would be a more likely approach. Development of water resources would be a key to implementing redistribution. Specific considerations and decisions would need to occur on an allotment and site-specific basis after completion of the RMP.

DPCs will also add to the aesthetic value for recreationists and greatly enhance the existing relationship between cattle and wildlife. We currently have and continue to expect multiple use in areas where DPCs apply. Multiple use will not be eliminated.

DPCs will not increase the risk of fire. The decision on full fire suppression has been changed in the final RMP.

The decision regarding conversion from cattle to sheep use has been removed from the final RMP.

52-5) The 'conditions' (your word) described as management goals in the RMP for various plant and animal species were developed using information derived from literature sources which discuss physical characteristics representative of habitat (e.g. riparian) in good condition, our personal knowledge and experience with observing the changes possible in vegetation structure (as an example) when management is changed from standard practices, and the large body of physical data obtained from various field studies in this resource area over the past 14 years. 52-6) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

A number of decisions which would impact livestock grazing have been changed in the final RIMP. The decision to encourage conversion from cattle to sheep use has been removed and the decisions excluding livestock from some allotments have been changed. Please see Chapter 2.

Because of changes in the Preferred Alternative 4 decisions, the impacts to livestock grazing have also been changed. Please see the "grazing" section of Chapter 4.

- 52-7) We have evaluated the impact analysis and modified it accordingly. See Chapter 4 of the final RMP for more information.
- 52-8) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 52-9) The decision to have 60% ground cover on upland rangelands has been eliminated from all management areas in the final.
- 52-10) The desired plant community goals for springs and associated wetlands, i.e. wet meadows (p. 242, draft RMP) are within the productive capabilities for this vegetation type in the eastern Sierra. Proper use of livestock can assist in accomplishing these goals.

Management of sage grouse habitat on Bureau administered land is based on habitat requirements presented in the BLM manual and other relevant information. Standard Bureau guidelines for sage grouse habitat management result from a large body of scientific evidence developed over several decades of investigation. The CRMP process is used to facilitate the practical means by which sage grouse habitat is managed to meet the guidelines.

- 52-11) Please see the first paragraph of response 52-10. We do not believe livestock will be precluded from grazing wet meadows as a result of the DPC goal for vegetation condition at springs and associated wetlands. Requiring 4 inches of residual plant height on these sites is within their productive capability when utilized by livestock.
- 52-12) The DPC goal for riparian vegetation is within the productive capability for this vegetation type in the eastern Sierra region.

There is no basis by which the Bureau recognizes livestock as an indicator species.

52-13) Specific projects required to stabilize and restore the identified streams are not proposed in the RMP. The RMP only provides direction and overall goals for the implementation of restoration efforts. The environmental, economic, legal, and other impacts of any proposed restoration project will be evaluated in a sitespecific environmental analysis.

The Bodie Hills have the most degraded stream system in the entire resource area. In many cases, these streams and riparian areas have lost their natural ability to control erosion and provide a dependable source of water and forage resources. Restoration efforts are intended to restore the historic and natural capacities of these systems for the benefit of upstream and downstream users allied.

The benefits to wildlife, livestock, fish, and people as the result of improved stream conditions are well documented (see the work of Dr. Bill Platts, Wayne Elmore, and numerous others), lorcreases in base flow (the amount and time period water is in the stream) commonly result from restoring streambank stability and the natural ability of streambanks to store and release water (channel storage capacity). The most effective way to restore streambank stability and water storage capacity is through increasing vegetative cover. Vegetation also serves as a filter that removes sediment and other forms of pollution from the water column, and provides forage and cover for wildlife and investock. The end result is a cleaner, more dependable water

supply for livestock, wildlife, and downstream agricultural and domestic uses.

Improving streambank stability and vegetative cover also contributes to the stream's ability to support fish and invertebrate species. Streams in the Bodie Hills have historically, and do currently support small but viable fish and endemic invertebrate populations (BLM and CA Dept. Fish and Game records). Restoration efforts will improve existing aquatic habitats, not create new habitats. The reference to "creation of an aquatic environment to support fish and aquatic invertebrates" in the draft RMP is clarified in the final. Proposed improvements are not a threat to downstream water users or species and will result in no economic impacts to downstream users.

Though vegetation is a key element in controlling instream water temperatures, reduced water temperatures result from a combination of abundant vegetative cover, deep narrow channels with undercut banks, and stable flows. Dense vegetation may restrict livestock access to water in some cases, however, the increased reliability of water sources will outweigh any water lost to limited access. Due to improved water table functions, restored streams should provide dependable water sources even under droubt conditions.

The feasibility and impact of maintaining water quality good enough for human use in all streams mentioned was addressed in the draft. This goal is not included in the preferred alternative.

- 52-14) Visual resource management (VRM) classes were assigned to maintain or improve the viewsheds in the Bodie Hills. VRM applies management standards to all types of land uses in addition to range activities. Most range improvements are allowed in VRM if or ill areas but costs may increase slightly near travel corridors to relocate the project or reduce potential contrasts. On the other hand, costs may be less outside the travel corridor since the project would be located in a less restrictive VRM class and not be seen. In the final RMP, VRM policy has been modified to incorporate some flexibility for projects outside key observation points. See Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures of the final RMP for more information.
- 52-15) The purpose of the Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process is to address the implementation of land use planning prescriptions. The Bureau provides resource management objectives and overall land use direction, while the CRM process identifies specific implementation methodologies, locations, etc. to meet the resource management objective. Some proposals were made in the draft RMP to enhance recreation opportunities in the Bodie Hills, and the EIS addresses impacts of the proposals. The proposals should actually be considered in site specific activity plans in coordination with the CRM process. We have deleted the trail/route connectors from the support needs section of the final RMP.

At this time, we concur with your comments regarding the fencing of primitive camp areas and have deleted it from the RMP.

- 52-16) See response 52-1.
- 52-17) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

To: Mike Ferguson, BLM Area Manager Bishop Resource Area

From: Cal Herron, Geologist Quest Geological Consultants 1419 Rocking W Dr. Bishop, CA. 93514 (619) 872-2300

Dear Sir,

I reviewed the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, and I wish to make several comments.

Jan. 16, 1991

53-1 With regard to the Ecdie Hills MA, on page 199 of your Preferred

"Mining will be limited in the Bodie Bowl in order to preserve the 'Chost Town' feel of Bodie. These restrictions will make 50% of the deposit uneconomic to develop. This will represent an increase of \$1 billion to Mono County's tax base and create over 250 jobs compared with the \$2 billion and 500 jobs generated under Alternatives 1 and 2.

In other words, your Preferred Alternative will cost Mono County \$\frac{1}{2}\$ billion and 250 jobe by prohibiting mine development on BIM land located adjacent to private land which can be developed, even though the private land is closer to the Bodie Historical Site. On page 202 you say:

"Mining activities cutside of and adjacent to Bodie would

have after negative lassets upon Materic structure, and a very even regative lasset upon the historic structure, and a for very even negative lasset upon the historic landscape and setting." Setting of the setting of the setting of the property of a very statute, "feeting." In causal type the indicates of the property of the property of the setting of the property of the property. Four reasons for elisinating \$1 billion and \$25 Jobs from the local economy are totally inndequate and irresponsibility as a local resident and tap pyer, I will be a setting of the property of the p

In general, I think your plan goes too far in restricting potential developments of natural resources via the expansion of VPM (Visual Resource Kanagement) I and II land classifications. Your intent is to discourage developments other than those relating to recreational activities. You clearly express your intent on page 23 in the Minerals section:

"A decision needs to be made as to how these conflicts (i.e. between mineral resources and wildlife and visual resources) can be resolved including whether there are areas of high mineral production where future mineral development should be limited."

Obviously, you see the need to resolve conflicts between mineral resources and other resources (particularly visual resources) by altinating the possibility of mineral resource development. This is a very short-sighted and biased visupoint. I see this strong bias reflected in your management plan. Areas possessing mineral potential are protected from future mineral development by AEEE (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) and VBH I and II

53-2

9

53·2 cont. designations. The ADDS and VMP classifications are subjective in nature and were evidently influenced by your personal projulion against development of Pablic lands. This does not constitute responsible land management, nor does not not consider the project of the project of the project of the project of or suitiple use. I therefore find your Prefered Alternatives to be unacceptable, and I wish to see a more balanced "multiple use" philosophy integrated into the first Blabley Becure Management Fins and intrinsements.

Sincerely,

Cal Herron Quest Geological Consultants RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 53 (Cal Herron, Quest Geological Consultants)

(3-1) We consider the Bodie National Historic Landmark to be one of the most valuable resources within the Bishop Resource Area. It is our intent to protect that resource. We are proposing environmental guidelines to do so. If a project is proposed which can be developed within those guidelines, it would be permitted.

The dollar figures which you have quoted were developed prior to completion of our GIS analysis. This section of the document has been rewritten to reflect the completed analysis.

53-2) See response 37-1. The VRM policy has been modified in chapter 1 of the final RMP to provide more flexibility for visual contrasts outside key observation points. The impact analysis in Chapter 4 of the final RMP has been reevaluated and modified to improve the minerals impact narratives. Your opposition to Alternative 4 is noted.

MORRISON & FOERSTER

LOS ANCEIXO DRANGE COUNTY WALLSON COURSE PALO ALTO DENVER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 345 CALIBORNIA STREET TELEPHONE (415) 677-7000 THE DESCRIPTION OF ANY APPLYSTS TELEX 34,0154 MESN FORES SEO

NEW WAR WASHINGTON DC 1 CAIDON HONG KONG TOKNO

January 14, 1991

DIRECT DIAL NUMBER (415) 677-7206

Michael Ferguson Area Manager 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, California 93514

> Re: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

We represent the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) in its efforts to protect Bodie State Historic Park from nearby mining development. CSPRA, which will comment separately on the policy reasons for strong federal protection of the State Historic Park and National Historic Landmark at Bodie, has asked us to comment on the legal sufficiency of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Resource Management Plan (RMP). Accordingly, the following comments are submitted on CSPRA's behalf.

CSPRA supports certain aspects of the BIM's choice of a Preferred Alternative. In particular, it supports the designation of the Bodie Bowl as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), although it prefers the creation of the larger Bodie Mountain/Potato Peak ACEC considered under Alternative 3. As CSPRA's attorneys, we are pleased that the Plan explicitly recognizes and affirms the BLM's duty, under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, to protect the ACEC and the National Historic Landmark at Bodie.

We are disturbed, however, by certain aspects of the RMP and the DEIS. First, the DEIS is so confusing. inconsistent and incoherent that it precludes meaningful analysis of the Plan's effect on Bodie. Second, although Alternative 3 includes withdrawal of the Bodie Bowl from mineral entry, the DEIS does not even attempt to address the

MODRISON & FORDSTED

Michael Ferguson January 14, 1991 Page Two

effect of withdrawal in a meaningful way. Third, the DETS does not consider the alternative that CSPRA supports, namely the withdrawal of the Bodie Bowl from the operation of the Mining Law, and the determination of the validity of existing claims there, in addition to the protections contained in the BLM's Preferred Alternative, an omission that appears to stem from a misunderstanding of the legal effect of withdrawal. Fourth, the discussion of the impacts on Mono County's tax base and job availability is utterly unsupported and insufficient on its face.

We submit that it would be an abuse of discretion for the BLM to base its decisionmaking on a fundamental misunderstanding of the applicable law. Further, it would be a clear violation of the NEPA Guidelines to prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement prior to the issuance of a DEIS that permits meaningful analysis of the issues. Accordingly, we urge the BLM to prepare a revised DEIS that corrects the deficiencies in the present DEIS by properly analyzing the available alternatives and their impacts on Bodie.

Facial Inadequacy of the DETS

The DEIS is inadequate on its face, as it fails to notify and inform the public of the nature and consequences of its decision not to withdraw the land in the Bodie Bowl. It acknowledges that protection of Bodie State Historic Park "is of national concern" (p. 22), that a significant public controversy has arisen over the future of Bodie (p. 66), and that the RMP may, to a great extent, determine the outcome of that controversy (e.g. pp. 96-97). Nevertheless, its references to Bodie are scattered throughout a lengthy document that addresses numerous issues and vast amounts of land. Those references, even when located and read together, address the Bodie issue only in the most skeletal and summary fashion. Further, as described in the next section of these Comments, even the skeletal comments in the Plan are inconsistent and incoherent.

This document not only completely fails to adequately analyze the BLM's alternatives with respect to Bodie, it does not even adequately notify the public that the future of Bodie is at stake. This document does not come close to satisfying NEPA's requirement that it foster "both informed decision-making and informed public participation." State of California v. Block, 690 F.2d 753 (1982).

54-1

MORRISON & FOERSTER

Michael Ferguson January 14, 1991 Page Three

54-1 Environmental (unlifty require that "If a draft statement is so inadequate as to preclude meants and that statement is so inadequate as to preclude meants and the statement is so inadequate as to preclude meants and the statement is so inadequate as to preclude meants and the statement of the appropriate portion." 40 C.F.R. 1952.9(a). Accordingly, the BLM surface the DEIS to include a meaningful discussion of the BLM's proposals with read the bodie bowl.

We submit that the BIM should prepare a separate DEIS on the Bodie issue as a part of its DEIS for the RMF, under the "tlering" provision of the NEPA Guidelines, 40 C.R.R. \$1508.24(a). A separate DEIS would be appropriate concern, the decision not to withdraw the land around Bodie from sineral entry may ultimately be determinative of Bodie's future, and this DEIS represents the first opportunity for the concerned public to comment on the questions (i) whether the fedderal land around Bodie should be requisted at Bodie. law, and (ii) how sinking should be requisted at Bodie.

Incoherence of the DEIS

54-2

The DEIS is also deficient, in its consideration of the effects of the RMP on Bodie, because it is internally inconsistent and incoherent. For example, in Table 2-2, "Impacts of Alternatives by Management Area," at page 99, the DEIS states that under Alternative 3 "45% of the locatable minerals (including the Galactic-Bodie deposit) . . . will be effectively withdrawn from development due to environmental restrictions," while under the Preferred Alternative "25% of the locatable . . . minerals will be effectively withdrawn due to environmental restrictions." On pages 96-97, the DEIS predicts that under the Preferred Alternative, as under Alternative 1, there will be "some severe localized degradation from mineral exploration/development in the Bodie Bowl and at Potato Peak. Long term loss of visitation expected in the Bowl and in outlying areas."

By contrast, in the "Impact on Mining" discussion, at pages 196-199, the DEIS states that under the Preferred Alternative, "Mining will be limited in Bodie Bowl in order to preserve the 'Chost Town' feel of Bodie. These restrictions will make 50% of the deposit uneconomic to develop." This description closely presembles the

MORRISON & FOERSTER

Michael Ferguson January 14, 1991 Page Four

54-2

description provided for Alternative 3, "Mining will not cocur in the Bodie Bowl except on claims with valid existing rights and on private land. Only 50% of the Galactic-Bodie deposit could be developed," and contrasts sharply with the description of Alternative 1, under which "Minerals development would degrade visual resources in the Bodie Bowl. This unique and intact Historic Landmark would be severely degraded by an open pit sine."

The foregoing statements simply cannot be reconciled. A careful study of the scattered references to Bodie in the DRIS suggests that the description of the impact on Bodie ordationed in the "Impact Table" might have been the result of a drafting error, as most of those references suggest that under the end of the references suggest that where the end of the preference that the suggest that the suggest of the preference to the preference of the suggest of the suggest and, as explained in the next section of these Comments, logically cannot suggest that regulations to be imposed under the Preference alternative under the prediction of the suggest and the suggest and sexplained in the next section of these laposed under the Preference alternative will have precisely reposed under the Preference alternative will have precisely

Again, the DEIS is facially deficient and must be revised. Informed public comment on a document that is fundamentally inconsistent and incoherent is obviously impossible.

54-3

The Description of Alternatives is Apparently Based on a Serious Misunderstanding of the Applicable Law

The DEIS as written seems to be premised on the view that withdrawal of the Bodie Bowl from the operation of the mining law is an <u>alternative</u> course of action to the strict regulation of mining operations established on claims made under the mining law in the Bodie Bowl. Specifically, states that the BLW will "Promibit activities which affect the National Landamrk adversely . . . using standards and quidelines to determine when unnecessary and undue degradation occurs." The description of Alternative 3 may be a supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW will pages 63-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be a supposed by the states that under that alternative the BLW would be a supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under the alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative that alternative the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that under that alternative that all the BLW would be supposed 5-64 states that the BLW would b

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54-3

Withdrawal and regulation are distinct issues. The decision to withdraw and not withdraw land from mineral entry is a decision about the disposal of property rights, i.e. whether it is appropriate, in light of the competing public additional free property rights in a particular piece of land. Valid claims, on which a sufficiently valuable mineral deposit has been discovered, are not destroyed by are invalid because the mineral deposit stoy claims that are invalid because the mineral deposit stoy claims that the insufficiently valuable to justify mining, even if those deposits might somedy become more valuable through, for example, changes in minerals prices or technology. In these calminum control of the control of t

Regulation, as distinct from withdrawal, means that the BLM will impose conditions on mining operations, to protect competing values. For purposes of regulation, it reduces the protect competing values. For purposes of regulation, it reduces the regulation of the reduces the regulation of the reduces of the reduces of the reduces of the reduces of whether the land has been withdrawn from the reduces of whether the land has been withdrawn from the reduces of the reduc

It would be a clear abuse of discretion for the BLM to base its decisionsaking on a misunderstanding of the applicable law. The DETS suggests that this is what has a price of the serious consideration to the effect of withdrawal as well as regulation. To comply with NEPA, it must prepare a revised DETS that adequately and accurately describes the

The Treatment of Economic Issues in the DEIS is Inadequate

54-4

The DEIS includes a discussion of the specific effects the regulation of mining near Bodie will have on Mono County's tax base and job availability, stating that represent an increase of \$3\$ billion to Mono County's tax base and create over 250 jobs compared to the \$2\$ billion at 500 jobs generated under Alternative and 2" (p. 199). The effects of Alternative 3 are described in similar terms trigues or explain or illuminate them in any way.

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Michael Ferguson January 14, 1991 Page Six

54-4

The figures in the DEIS appear to us to be wildly inflated, but it is impossible to provide meaningful commentary or analysis on these figures without more information on how they were derived. An adequate discussion of the impact of mining at Bodle on Mono County's tax base and job availability would require, at the very least, a description of what is presently known about the deposit, the methods of mining and processing expected to be used. The regulations that would be imposed, and an used. The regulations that would be imposed, and an interest of the through the content of the projected tax base and job immact.

We question whether it is appropriate even to attempt to quantify the specific economic consequences of a mine at Bodie at this stage, as the validity of the claims in the area has not yet been determined, the regulations that would apply to such a mine have not yet been drafted, and no specific mining proposal has been submitted to the BLM. If, however, the BLM determines that specific economic impacts should be considered at this stage, it cannot confine itself to the potential positive economic impacts of the mine, but must consider the potential negative impacts as well, including (i) the economic consequences of the environmental impacts on Bodie, in view of its importance to the local economy as a tourism resource, (ii) the extent to which a mine would rely on transient labor, and the socioeconomic effects that the influx of such workers would have on the community, and (iii) the economic effects of the inevitable termination of mining, i.e. the long-term effects of a "boom and bust" industry on a small community.

Conclusion

The DEIS is deficient on its face for failing to provide a meaningful discussion of the RMP's effect on Bodie. It is internally inconsistent and incoherent. It fails to explain the effect of withdrawal, apparently because its drafters failed to understand the concept of withdrawal. It fails to consider the reasonable alternative supported by CSPR and the many people who desire maximum regulation for Bodie, namely withdrawal plus strict provides about the impacts of the consider that the DEIS provides about the impacts of the control of the concerning the effects on Mono County's tax base and jobs — is completely unsupported, and fails even to acknowledge the existence of countervalling economic

MORRISON & FOERSTER

Michael Perguson January 14, 1991 Page Seven

54-5

considerations. For all of the foregoing reasons, the DEIS is so deficient as to preclude meaningful analysis, and must be revised.

In light of the extent of public concern about Bodie, it would be appropriate for the BLM to prepare a separate DEIS that focuses solely on the issue of resource anangement in the mode solely on the issue of resource to the solely of the solely of the solely of the solely of the BLM to effect an emergency withdrawal of the Bodie Bowl from sineral entry pending the completion of the RMP process, as such a withdrawal would proced the RMP process, as such as withdrawal would proced for the SMP of walled claims.

Thank you for your consideration.

With

E59492

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 54 (Morrison & Foerster)

54-1) The final RMP includes a mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).

We have received a few comments that parts of the draft RMP/EIS are difficult to understand; please see response 51-1, paragraphs 3 and 4. These parts have been rewritten to make the final more easily understood. Primarily, the minerals 'impacts' section in Chapter 4 has been rewritten to clarify several areas.

There is currently an EIR/EA being prepared with public input for proposed exploratory work on public and private lands within the Bodie Bowt. If a proposal for mining at Bodie is received, a NEPA document would address that proposal. Decisions in the RIMP have been designed to protect the National Historic Landmark by developing guidelines and criteria which any proposed project must follow. These would protect the area from any inappropriate development, including wildlife, recreation or mineral projects.

See general Bodie response (p.5-5).

54-2) Several items in Table 2-2 were not properly carried forward from Chapter 4. These inconsistencies in the draft have been corrected in the final.

The minerals impacts section has been rewritten in the final.

The text referred to on pp.96-97 was not brought forward correctly from Chapter 4. It has been corrected in the final to reflect the fact that the "limits of acceptable change" will provide protection to the historic values within the Landmark.

54-3) The RMP is written with the view that a mineral withdrawal is a potential management tool. There is indeed a difference between Alternative 3 and Alternative 4.

We agree with your discussion of the difference between withdrawals and regulation as imposing conditions. The alternatives have been developed using both withdrawals and regulation as you describe them.

54-4) The estimate of economic benefit to the local economy from mining in the Bodie Bowl was based on the following assumptions:

The Bodie Mining District has historically produced \$2 billion in gold (at \$350.00/cz). It was assumed that this represents 50% of the total recoverable gold in-place. If only 25% of this mass were mined, it would represent about \$500,000,000 in gold. Assuming it would cost \$250,000,000 to produce this gold, there would be a flow of this amount into the local economy. The multiplication effect of cash flow through Mono County was assumed to be 8. Therefore the benefit to the local economy. all deposits were mined, was assumed to be about \$2 billion.

This analysis has been removed from the final RMP. These impacts would be more appropriately addressed in an EIS, should we receive a proposal for mineral development at Bodie.

54-5) Following completion of the RMP, an ACEC plan will be developed for the Bodie Bowl. This process will include public participation. A separate EIS will be prepared for Bodie if we receive a proposal for mineral development. PARCEL, MAURO, HULTIN & SPAANSTRA, P.G.

ATTORNETS AT LAW
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DENVER, COLDRADO 80202
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ELIZA FINKENSTAEDT HILLHOUSE

January 17, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area Bakersfield District 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop. California 93514

> Re: Comments to Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Enclosed is the original hard copy of the comments of Bodie Consolidated Mining Company, Inc. relating to the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that was submitted by facsimile to you today.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues raised in the letter directed to you on behalf of Bodie Consolidated Mining Company, Inc.

Sincerely yours.

PARCEL, MAURO, HULTIN & SPAANSTRA, P.C.

Eliza F. Hillhouse

ATTORNEYS FOR BODIE CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY, INC.

EFH/dmt Enclosure PARCEL, MAURO, HULTIN & SPAANSTRA, P.C.

SUITE 2600 IBOL CALIFORNA STREET OCHVER, COLORADO BOPOS TELEPHONE (2021-292-6400 VELECOPIER (2021-265-3040

DEAN R. MASSEY

January 17, 1991

VIA FACSIMILE (303) 872-2894

Mr. Michael Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street Suite P

Bishop, California 93514

Re: Comments of Bodie Consolidated Mining Company, Inc. Relating to the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Bodic Consolidated Mining Company, Inc. (FURMY) pursuant to 61 CLPs. Subpart 160 (1989) concerning the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement dated September 1996 (FURMY) FISS.) BCMC controls certain unpastented and patented mining datins in the vicinity of the Town of Bodic, California. Such mining claims are included within the area covered by the DRM/PIES. BCMC, therefore, possess valid existing rights which may be affected abereately by implementation of the preferred alternative and management policies contained in the DRM/PIES. In Such test rests forth BCMCs objections to the DRM/PIES, summarizes the legal basis for such objections, and gives the page number(s) of the DRMP/EIS where such base it discussed. The comments which follow include site-specific issues as well as objections to general policies, themes, and approaches which were used in the preparation of the DRMP/FIES shows a well as whole. In those excess where a comment registers an objection to a general policy, theme or approach, it is intended to apply throughout the DRMP/FIES showment.

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 17, 1991 Page 2

I. INTRODUCTION

55-1

In general, BCMC believes that the DRMP/EIS does not strike the appropriate balance between natural resource development and preservation. Rather, the DRMP/EIS. and in particular Alternative 4: Preferred Alternative (the "Preferred Alternative"), imposes unwarranted restrictions on natural resource development on federal lands. Therefore, the DRMP/EIS is inconsistent with the policies, principles and regulations set forth in the federal law authorizing the BLM to manage the public lands based upon the objectives of multiple use and sustained yield. See Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq. ("FLPMA"). The DRMP/EIS fails to recognize and protect the property rights of BCMC and others held under the Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. §§ 21 ct seq., and does not reflect state and local land use laws and regulations. The DRMP/EIS also is flawed as a land use planning tool because in establishing the management theme for federal land in the Bodie area it ignores the fact that exploration and mining will occur on adjacent privately owned mining claims. For the DRMP/EIS to succeed as a land use planning guide, it must provide for multiple land uses on the federal lands while recognizing the land uses and rights associated with privately held parcels in the immediate vicinity. Specifically, the DRMP/EIS must recognize the mineral potential of the Bodie area and provide for mineral development on BCMC's patented and unpatented mining claims in its management of surrounding federal lands. Such mineral development is a right that is guaranteed by federal law. Moreover, such mineral use is temporary and compatible with numerous other reasonable land uses

55-2

By adding another cycle to the long history of miseral development in the Bodie area, BCMC believes that future mining activities could be conducted in a namer which will enhance the cultural and historic experience in the axes. Further, it is well documented that mineral development will have avery positive affect on the local and regional economy both in terms of providing overall growth and additional diversity to the economic base. Overwhelming local support exists in favor of mineral development and BCMC expects that such development would result in an increase to the local tax basis, provide additional jobs — both in the mine and as a result of BCMCs activities in the terms, and other social and economic improvements which follow from an industry conducting its operation in a particular area. Additionally, the products which result from potential mineral development particular area. Additionally the products which result from potential mineral development minerals. Assuring multiple use in the area around the social section that to only its required leading, but orractical and reasonable as well as a course of action that to only its required leading, but orractical and reasonable as well as a course of action that to only its required leading, but orractical and reasonable as well.

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As is recognized in the DRMP/EIS on pages 25 and 26, the general policy of FLPMA, states that "fliplangement will be on the basis of multiple-uce," and that the FLPMA states that "fliplangement will be on the basis of multiple-uce," and that the "fliplible land will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for dennestic sources of minerabe. From the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, as it pertains to the public lands." In providing for the implementation of such multiple use oblicetives, FLPMA states they.

[N]o provision of this section or any other section of this Act shall in any way amend the Mining Law of 1872 or impair the rights of any locators or claims under that Act, including, but not limited to, rights of ingress and egress.

43 U.S.C. § 173(4)). Consistent with this F.P.WA provision are numerous judicial decisions boding that rights created under the Mining Law of 1872, including rights to patented and unpatented mining claims, are vested property rights "in the fullest sense of that term," not mere licenses. See, e.g., Wilbur, V.Inited States, et al., Knubnic, 280 U.S. 306 (1929); Ickes V., V.Irrinia-Colorndo Development Corp., 295 U.S. 439 (1935); United States x. Eichevertry, 220 F.2d 193 (104) GT. 1955.

Cangress directed the BLM to manage the public lands in a coordinated and harmonious manner, without permanenly impairing the productivity of the lands. 43 C.F.R. § 1601.05 (1989). Overall, the DRMP/EIS is biased against mineral development and, in particular, would impose management policies which functionally would prevent mineral development activities on the public lands in the vicinity of Bodie (See, E.g., ACEC designation at p. 6.1). The production of the public lands in the vicinity of Bodie (See, E.g., ACEC designation at p. 6.1). BNMP/EIS is come by Congressional directives because it would impact permanently and adversely the productivity of the lands and adversely affect the need to provide the country with a domestic supply of valuable minerals.

In addition to its failure to comply with the terms and regulations of FLPMA and the Mining Law of 1872, the DRM/FIGS ignores the regulations concerning the development of resource management lands set forth in 43 C.F.R. Subparts 1601 and 1610 (1989). For example, 43 C.F.R. 5 1610.1 provides that in reperaing a specific land use management plant, the BLM must consider the guidance developed for such planning. Such guidance includes analysis requirements, planning procedures, and other written information and instructions required to be considered in the planning process. As described herein, the BLM has ignored such requirements, procedures, and instructions in its preparation of the DRM/FI. BLM. Planning regulations also require that the public be 'provided opportunities to meaningfully metricitate in and comment on the preparation of the analysis.

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 17, 1991 Page 4

55-6

55-7

\$55-5 | \$1610.2. As indicated in these comments in more detail below, the DRMP/EIS does not provide such opportunities.

Consistent with its failure to comply with the BLM requirements that the public be given an opportunity to participate in and comment on the preparation of land use plans in a meaningful way, the DRMP/EIS also violates the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, et seq. ("NEPA"), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. NEPA regulations require that the "environmental information [must be] available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. The information must be of high quality. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA." 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(h) (1990). NEPA regulations also require that the environmental impact statement, a draft of which is included in the DRMP/EIS. "shall provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and shall inform decision-makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. . . . Statements shall be concise, clear, and to the point, and shall be supported by evidence that the agency has made the necessary environmental analyses," 43 C.F.R. § 1502.1. The DRMP/EIS is generally vague and fails to provide the required discussion, analysis, or evidentiary support required by these NEPA regulations. See 43 C.F.R. §§ 1500.1(b), 1502.1. This issue is discussed in more detail in comments which follow.

The DRMP/EIS also violates numerous provisions contained in the regulations concerning BLM resource management planning. Such regulations require, among other things, coordination and consistency with state and local governments. See 43 C.F.R. § 1610.3-2 and Section 1615 of the BLM Manual. Here, the state and local land use policies and goals favor mineral development. The State of California and Mono County Planning Regulations recognize mining rights and "lilmpose conditions upon incompatible land uses in and surrounding areas containing identified mineral deposits for the purpose of mitigating the significant land use conflicts prior to approving a use that would otherwise be incompatible with mineral extraction." Cal. Admin. Code tit. 14, § 3676(b)(3)(C) (1989); Mono County Zoning and Development Code §§ 19.03050 B.3 and 19.19030 B (March 1986) (permitted uses in Mono County include "[t]he removal of minerals and natural minerals." In cases where the County does not have permitting authority due to the federal jurisdiction, the County nevertheless intends to review land use proposals and comment as necessary.) Additionally, the laws of the State of California, respecting mineral resource management policies and plans, "[e]mphasize the conservation and development of identified mineral deposits." Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 2762(a)(3) (West 1984). The Mono County draft Mineral Resource Management Policy, developed by the Mono County Mineral Resource Technical

55-7 cont Advisory Committee, in a report to the Open Space Conservation Element of the Mone County General Plan, states in its "Summary of Major Findings" that the "extraction of mineral resources is essential to the needs of the society and contributes to the economy of Mone County." The main policies set forth by this Technical Advisory Committee are to "Iljocate and identify mineral resource deposits of Regional and Statewise Significance, Illian to "Iljocate and identify mineral resource deposits of Regional and Statewise Significance, Illian to "Ilpocate and identify mineral resource and the Tomacount of the DRM/PISS would preclude development of a humon mineral resource and, thereoperations, Asson, the DRM/PISS voils violates the coordination and consistency requirements of FLPMA and its implementing regulations.

55-8

The DRMP/EIS fails to comply with BLM planning guidance, Section 1612 of the BLM Manual, in its failure to consider the social and economic information required in every resource management plan, including an analysis for each alternative of expected outputs, budget assumptions, capital investments, socioeconomic conditions and impacts, cost-effectiveness, demand, development potential, efficiency, equity, public preference or acceptability. The DRMP/EIS also ignores the requirements of Section 1616.7 of the BLM Manual concerning the selection of a preferred alternative. Contrary to the Manual, the DRMP/EIS provides no rational basis for selecting the Preferred Alternative identified in the plan. The BLM rules require that the preferred alternative most effectively meet the planning criteria and guidance applicable to the resource area. Nowhere is authority provided to support an alternative like the Preferred Alternative, which is overwhelmingly biased against mineral development and in favor of recreational and wildlife enhancement in contradiction to federal, state, and local laws. Additionally, the BLM land management regulations set forth the criteria for designation areas of critical environmental concern ("ACEC"), and provide guidance to classify areas according to visual resource management ("VRM") standards. As demonstrated in more detail below, the DRMP/EIS is inconsistent with these regulations.

II. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

55-9

The DRMP/EIS states that the proposed action alternative of the DRMP/EIS, referred to as Pfeedred Alternative, 'seeks to resolve issues in a balanced manner, providing for development of resources while protecting or enhancing environmental values.' See pp. 35 of the DRMP/EIS. However, the management theme for the Bodde Hills Management Area concerning the Preferred Alternative is to improve wildlife habitat, enhance recreation opportunities, and protect sceine and historical values. Despite the fact.

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that the area contains a documented mineral resource located on patented and unpatented mining claims, the selected management theme totally neglects to discuss or even reference the need to allow and plan for mineral development and the rights of existing mining claim holders as components of the theme. In this regard, the decision is a clear-cut deviation from the existing management theme contemplated in the current Management Framework Plan (the Bodie/Coleville Management Framework Plan) which clearly contemplates future mineral development. The DRMP/EIS gives no analysis or rationale whatsoever to support its proposed change in management policy. BCMC believes that the decision is unfounded and totally inconsistent with the clear requirements of FLPMA and the Mining Law of 1872. to encourage multiple use and to foster mineral production on federal lands. The implementing decisions include several which could hinder severely, if not preclude, mineral development in the Bodie Bowl. These decisions include the proposed designation of the entire Bodie Bowl as a VRM I area with respect to visual resources and the designation of the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC. The stated objectives of the DRMP/EIS are to "preserve the existing historic integrity of the landscape", preclude all but "very limited management activity," and "prohibit activities which affect the National Landmark adversely." See pages 65 and 66 of DRMP/EIS. The emphasis on preservation and prohibition in the management objectives combined with the failure to recognize mineral development in the management theme effectively will prevent BCMC from developing its patented and unpatented mining claims in and around the Bodie Bowl.

A. Mineral Development Restrictions

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Unfortunately, the DRMP/EIS does not set forth clear criteria, standards, or guidelines by which activities proposed to be conducted within the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC could be judged, nor does it include any documentation or support for an objective analysis of the consequences of ACEC designation on potential mineral development in general, and on BCMCs claims in particular, BCMC has reviewed the pertinent flies in the Bishop BLM office and met with you and your staff on at least two occasions in an effort to obtain the basis for the designation and the specific resource and environmental Alternative on its interests. To elignation and the specific resource and environmental Alternative on its interests. To elignate the standard of the properties of the p

55-10 concerns with internal inconsistencies in the analysis of the Preferred Alternative and the erroneous conclusions which result.

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The BLM attempts to specify the consequences of the Preferred Alternative with respect to mineral development on page 99 where the DRMP/EIS states that "50% of the locatable minerals in the Bodie area cannot be developed in conformance with VRM I and II requirements." The DRMP/EIS also states that "25% of the locatable . . . minerals will be effectively withdrawn due to environmental restrictions." The DRMP/EIS is unclear whether the 25% of the locatable minerals that will be "effectively withdrawn" due to environmental restrictions is in addition to or included within the 50% of the locatable minerals that cannot be developed in conformance with VRM I and II requirements. Even assuming that the 25% is within the 50%, such is extraordinarily high and does not reflect the balance required by FLPMA. BCMC believes there is no legal authority for BLM to accomplish an "effective withdrawal." Additionally, the DRMP/RIS does not delineate how much of the locatable minerals which it asserts cannot be developed or are effectively withdrawn are minerals situated on unpatented or patented mining claims. Without sufficient information to determine the effects of this decision, the public, including BCMC, cannot assess the decisions' effects and, therefore, cannot comment in accordance with the requirements of NEPA or the BLM's planning regulations.

On pages 136 and 137, the DRMP/EIS states that approximately 60% of the mineral deposits in the Bishon area are sub-economic and could not be developed "under any reasonable price or environmental mitigation structure." Marginally economic deposits are stated to be 35% of the Bishop area deposits, and their size is considered small (less than 10,000 tons). "[Elven minor environmental constraints on their development can render them uneconomic." Contrary to NEPA and BLM regulations, the DRMP/EIS provides no data upon which it bases these conclusions, nor does it discuss what it considers "any reasonable price or mitigation structure." Further, the DRMP/EIS does not relate these figures to the statements it makes on page 99 (see above) concerning the inability to develop 50% of the locatable minerals in conformance with VRM classifications and the effective withdrawal of 25% of the Bodie area minerals due to environmental restrictions. The DRMP/EIS does not indicate if any of the "subeconomic deposits" are situated on patented or unpatented claims, or if the deposits are rendered uneconomic as a result of restraints proposed by DRMP/EIS. Such unsubstantiated, contradictory, and unclear statements are inconsistent with NEPA and the BLM's resource management planning regulations.

The DRMP/EIS also states on page 137 that the "Bodic Mining District is currently receiving significant exploration activity, with a plan of operations for a large open

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55-12 dentify such activity as that of BCMC, however, the anticipated gold mine and millistic anticipated by BLM." On this page the DRMP/EIS does not send to be a such as the project as a "uper project" deswhere in the DRMP/EIS is contarty to the subhased position the BLM is required to take in its land use management efforts and ignores the fact that this project will be developed primarily on putneted and unpatented mining claims. Although this focus is discriminatory, it also makes the anti-mineral development decisions of the potential project will be developed and the project will be developed the project will be developed to the project will be developed to the project of the project project

The DRMP/EIS acknowledges on page 151 that there is "high and moderate 55-13 potential for locatable mineral deposits near the Bodie, Little Bodie, Dogtown, Paramount, Red Cloud and Potato Peak Mining Districts." This statement annears to recognize the value of the mineral deposits in the Bodie area, however, the DRMP/EIS focuses on the incompatibility of the potential mining operations on private or BLM lands (see, e.g., "Manager's Guidelines" on pp. 26-27 of the DRMP/EIS which limit, restrict, or prohibit mineral development; ACEC designation which prevents mineral development (p. 65): prohibition of activities which may affect the historic landmark adversely (p. 65): Special Resource Management Area designation rendering mining operations incompatible with objectives for the area (p. 120)), rather than on the use of federal lands for multiple use and sustained yield as required by FLPMA. Moreover, the consequences that decisions concerned only with enhancing wildlife (p. 65 of DRMP/EIS) or improving recreational opportunities (p. 186 of DRMP/EIS) may cause those owning valid property rights violates the Mining Law of 1872. While BCMC supports the general policy of improving recreation and habitats, such activities must be planned in such a way as to avoid interfering with private property rights. The emphasis of the DRMP/EIS on wildlife and recreation also ignores the state and local land use planning goals and policies, and indicates poor land use planning in its attempt to enhance substantially wildlife and recreational opportunities adjacent to areas that may be mined.

55.14 csp. on page 180 of the DRMP/EIS, the Preferred Alternative states that with respect to the Bikhop area that, "an estimated 70% of the locatable mineral deposits are economically feasible for development." It is unclear how this statement relates to previous statements on page 137 of the DRMP/EIS, discussed above, where it stated that 95% of the mineral deposits are subeconomic or marginally economic, or the statements on page 90 of the DRMP/EIS, discussed above, where the DRMP/EIS stated that with respect to Bodie, '30% of the locatable interests cannot be developed in conformance with the VRMI and II requirements]," and '25% of the locatable . . . minerals will be effectively withdrawn due to environmental restrictions." The DRMP/EIS on page 180 indicates that of the 14 major

projects "two will be 'super' projects, including the Bodie-Galactic project. These will 55-14 involve 25 acres or more of disturbance each for a minimum total of 50 acres. These 'super' cont projects will employ up to 500 persons and make a significant contribution to the tax base of Mono and Invo Counties. However, added environmental costs will result in only 50% of the deposits being mined compared to Alternatives I and IL. The DRMP/EIS does not specify any basis for these conclusions nor does it specify the types of environmental costs which were assumed in the analysis, if one was conducted. It is unclear why the DRMP/EIS again singles out the Bodie-Galactic project of the 14 "major projects." We note that the "Bodie-Galactic project" is in the exploration stage and does not have a plan of operations developed to inform the BLM of any aspects of such project. The fact that the Preferred 55-15 Alternative apparently adds environmental costs that will result in only one-half of the deposits being mined compared to the level of development estimated by the DRMP/EIS under Alternatives 1 and 2, violates the sustained yield and protection of mining rights contained in FLPMA. Because the analysis is not given and it is unclear whether the 50% of the deposits not mined include any deposits situated on unpatented or patented mining claims, BCMC cannot comment on whether BLM's conclusion is valid. For this reason we believe that the DRMP/EIS also has failed to comply with NEPA and BLM resource

5.5-16 the DRMP/EIS, state that "alproximately 18% of the locatable micrat deposits . . . will be withdrawn to protect wildlife, cultural and visual resources." The DRMP/EIS also states that "[development of 34% of the mineral deposits will be constrained by seasonal protection and 11% by year-long protection." The total of mineral deposits that would be limited for one reason or another because of the statements quoted above its 65%. The DRMP/EIS provides no further information respecting its analysis and does not specify where the deposits which will be 'wildrawn' or 'constrained' are located, and whether they include the patented and unpatement mining dains owned by BCNC. BLM also falls to referred to above. This shoet information respectively. The contemporary of the production of the patented and unpatement mining dains owned by BCNC. BLM also falls to referred to above. This shoet information is the DRMP/EIS at pages 99, 317, and 180, referred to above. This shoet information groups the procedure are mininglift review and therefore, violates both NEPA and BLM planning regulations. See 40 C.F.R. § 1500.2 (6):

management planning regulations. See 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(b); 43 C.F.R. § 1610.2.

The DRMP/EIS then states at page 199, that "[development of 59% of the locatable and stable mineral deposits would be restricted due to Cass 1 and II VRM requirements." Again, contrary to the legal requirements, it is impossible to determine what property the 59% restriction affects and how it relates to the statements in the preceding paragraph concerning an 18% withdrawal of locatable mineral deposits to protect wildlife, cultural and visual resources, the 45% minerals affected by seasonal restrictions, and the

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5.5 · 6 relates to the DRMP/EIS figures concerning mineral development limitations set forth on pages 99, 137, and 180, discussed above. Here again, because these decisions concerning mineral development are so contradictory and unclear, the public example maningfully on such proposals. Moreover, the BLM has not provided any basis in the record for its statements.

The conclusion relating to "Impact On Mining" on page 199 of the DRMP/EIS states that mineral exploration and development will be slightly decreased over Alternative 1 (the no action/continuation of present management alternative). The DRMP/EIS states that the development of "locatable... deposits will not occur due to increased mining costs required to protect other resources." The DRMP/EIS also concludes that the inability to develop mine locatable deposits represents a potential loss of nine million dollars in locatable minerals. Without knowing what lands these nine locatable deposits include or the DRMP/EIS — which is contrava to NEPA and BLM regulations ovide comments on the DRMP/EIS — which is contrava to NEPA and BLM regulations.

Another instance where the DRMP/EIS has made decisions inconsistent with 55-/8 the law is found on page 199 of the DRMP/EIS, as follows:

Mining will be limited in Bodie Bowl in order to preserve the 'Chost Town' feel of Bodie. These restrictions will make 50% of the deposit uneconomic to develop. This will represent an increase of 31 billion to Mono County's tax base and crease over 250 jobs compared to the \$2 billion and 500 jobs generated under Alternatives 1 and 2. [Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the deposit referred to in the Bodie Bowl is the "Calactic-Bodie deposit."

With these assertions, the BLM appears to be confusing the resource management planning process with future determinations under the National Historic Preservation AC, 16 U.S.C. \$5 470 g.t.g. (NHPA'). Such an approach is inconsistent with the clear process set forth in regulations implementing the NHPA. There is no basis in the record or in applicable regulation to assert that the 'Ghost Town' feel is an appropriate criteria for limiting mining, and its proposed use is vague and contrary to law. Additionally, because EMCM has not submitted a plan of operations to the BLM concerning BCMC's intentions with respect to the development of its patented and unpatented mining claims in the area of the Bodde Bowd, the BLM has no basis to determine specifically that 50% of the deposit will become unconsonic to develop. Given the general prohibitions indicated on page 65 of the DRMP.

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EIS, BCMC believes that mining may be precluded entirely. Moreover, because the BLM has provided no information in the record concerning precisely how the BLM intention to make such portion of the deposit uneconomic to develop, the public is not able to comment on the proposal as required by PBPA and BLM regulations. If the BLM intention to retrieve so severely the rights of BCMC with respect to BCMCs property, such action is a taking of niviate property contrary to bar.

B. Taking Without Compensation: Executive Order 12630 (November 15, 1988)

As indicated above, mining claims are property rights in every sense of the word. See Wilbur v. United States ex. rel. Krushnic, 280 U.S. 639 (1935). The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that excessive federal regulation can result in a taking of private property, and that just compensation must be paid to the property owner for such taking. See Nollan v. California Coastal Commission. 483 U.S. 825 (1987); First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glendale v. County of Los Angeles, 482 U.S. 304 (1987). The Supreme Court also has held specifically that excessive regulation of mining rights may result in a taking. Pennsylvania Coal v. Mayhon, 260 U.S. 393 (1922); Keystone Bituminous Coal Ass'n v. DeBendictis, 480 U.S. 470 (1987). Therefore, the restrictions contemplated by the DRMP/EIS (e.g., ACEC designations and VRM classifications), and the consequences that will result from the decisions of the DRMP/EIS (e.g., 50% of the mineral deposit in the Bodie Bowl will be uneconomic to develop because of the cultural resource limitations the DRMP/EIS will impose (page 199 of the DRMP/ EIS); and 59% of the locatable and saleable mineral deposits will be restricted due to Class I and II VRM requirements (page 199 of the DRMP/EIS)), are extraordinary restrictions on the use of private rights and will constitute a taking of private property.

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1988) requires federal decision-makers to evaluate carefully the effects of their administrative, regulatory, and legislative actions on constitutionally protected property rights. This Executive Order requires the performance of a "Rakings Implications Analysis" before allowing a federal action to occur that might constitute a taking. The implementation of management policies proposed by the DRMP/EIS will preclude the development of a substantial portion, if not all, of the pistenticed and unspatement mining the development of a substantial portion, if not all, of the pistenticed and unspatement mining DRMP/EIS decisions leave no doubt that private property rights, including those of BCMC, will be affected by such policies. For example, the ACIE designation contained in the DRMP/EIS and the restrictions contemplated by such designation, together with the consequences on private land that the DRMP/EIS describes, constitutes an "action" burstness of the consequences on private land that the DRMP/EIS describes, constitutes an "action" burstness and the private property rights, including those of BCMC.

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16 Executive Order 12630 (ξ.e., "applications of Federal regulations to specific property" or early careful or Federal regulations to specific property or under the Executive Order that has "ukings implications" because "fi implemented or exacted, could effect a staing, such as note or regulations that propose or implement . . . condition requirements or limitations on private property use(f)" See Section 2(a) and (c) the results of the property of the prop

Similarly, the VRM classifications set forth in the DRMP/EIS and the restrictions contemphated by such classifications, together with the regulations that will be applicable to certain lands as a result of such classifications, and the consequences that the DRMP/EIS describes for such lands, also are decisions within the scope of Executive Port 12630. With respect to such VRM determinations, the required "Takings Implications Analysis" has not been performed.

The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution and the case law which has developed thereunder requires that before the BLM may regulate BCMCs patented and unpatented mining claims to the degree envisioned in the DRMF/EIS, it must pay just compensation to BCMC for the taking of such private property. Additionally, before the BLS can supplement the management and patent property to the property of the p

C. ACEC Designation

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Bowl as an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) to protect visual and historic values does not provide the analysis required by law concerning the basis for proposing the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC. Section 1610-72 of Title 43 C.F.R. describes the criteria that must be met in order for an area to be designated as an ACEC, and the BLM Manual concerning resource management planning at Sections 1613 and 1617 also describe the required characteristics of an ACEC, the analysis and designation procedures, and the documentation standards. We note that BCMC representatives have reviewed the BLM-Bishop office files pertaining to the proposed ACEC designation. According to BLM bersoned, these files contained nothing more than a single conclusory paragraphs supporting

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 south the focial Register (55 Fed. Reg. 42783), or the administrative record compiles with the federal requirements for ACEC designation set forth at 43 C.F.R. § 1610.7-2 (1989) and in the BI M Manual.
- In order for an area of public lands to be a potential ACEC, both of the following criteria must be met:
 - (1) Relevance. There shall be present a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system of process; or natural hazard.
 - (2) Importance. The above described value, resource, system, process, or hazard shall have substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. A natural bazard can be important if it is of significant threat to human life or property.
 - 43 C.F.R. § 1610.7-2 (1889). Section 1613.1 of the BLM Manual elaborates further on the characteristics of ACECs. Nothing in the DRMP/EIS or ACEC notice describes the 'relevant' and 'important' characteristics of the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC. Argually, the Bodie State 'Park is a 'significant historic value,' but the 'Park constitutes only approximately '96 of the entire Bodie Bowl (as contemplated by BLM). Without any discussion by the BLM concerning the 'relevance' and 'importance' of the proposed ACEC, the proposed designation is unsubstantiated.
 - The BLM Manual, Section 1613.21B, requires the BLM to obtain information on relevance and importance based upon inventory and data collection. To the best of our knowledge, no such inventory or data collection concerning the proposed Bodie Bowl designation has been conducted, no rhas any data or other documentation been provided in the DRMP/EIS or its administrative record. Further, BLM guidelines require that 'Information about resources on adjacent non public lands may also be needed for evaluating the relevance and importance of resource values or hazards on public lands. Manual §10 51221B/2. The BLM Manual also requires the identification of factors which influence management prescriptions. See Section 1613.22A. The Manual asks the questions: 'What measures can be taken to protect the potential ACEC value(s) without restricting other resource uses?" 'What is the status of existing mining claims or pre-FLPMA leases? How will existing rights affect unasaccented the resource or hazard?'

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Section 1613.22A(3) and (8). There is no documentation in the record which indicates that the BLM has considered the relationship of the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC designation in conjunction with existing private property rights involving patented and unpatented mining claims in the vicinity of the Bodie Bowl.

- 55-24 potential ACEC into appropriate alternatives. Where there are issues associated with the management of a potential ACEC into appropriate alternatives. Where there are issues associated with the reasonable range of management prescriptions for the potential ACEC. BLM Manual § 1613.22B. The management prescriptions for the potential ACEC. BLM Manual § 1613.22B. The management prescriptions may vary in a number of ways, including the degree or intensity of management attention, the size of the area to receive special management attention. There is no indication in the DRM PISIS or in the Enderial Resister notice that any of these alternatives with respect to the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC have been considered. Further, neither the DRM/PISIS nor the notice set forth the proposed management prescriptions with sufficient specificity to allow a reasoned analysis of their impact on the interests and properly rishts held by ECMC within the ACFEC.
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 The BLM Manual requires that an ACEC designation set forth a "thorough and well-documented estimation of effects analysis." Manual § 1613.22C. This means that the BLM must analyze what the management prescription for the ACEC (fig., special management attention) will cause in the way of effects of that ACEC designation. Neither the DRMP/EIS nor the ACEC notice in the Federal Register analyzed the effects of the management prescription.

Certain provisions regarding public notice and ACEC documentation standards set forth in the BLM Manual have no teen followed concerning the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC designation. The BLM Manual requires that "Jalya anticipated issues related to the consideration of ACECs should be described in the notice of intent!" BLM Manual § 1613.3. The BLM Manual as requires the notice to describe the proposed ACECs included in the BLM's Preferred Alternative "and specify resource use limitations, if any which would occur." Manual § 1613.32. The public notice concerning the proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC did not describe any anticipated issues nor did it describe resource use limitations that would result from ACEC designation except to state that any Tajetions in control of the Introduce of the ACEC manual of the Introduce of the Introduce. The Introduce of the

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The BLM Manual also requires a resource management plan to set forth certain details with respect to the ACBC. These details are not contained in the Bishop DRMP/EIS. Specifically, the BLM Manual requires a description of the value, resource, systems, or hazard which warrants special management attention under the ACBC, and the description 'should fairly indicate why the area is considered relevant and important.' and an adicipated faiture uses which are considered relevant and important and anticipated faiture uses which are considered compatible with the purposes of an ACBC and those considered incompatible. Manual § 1613.33C. The DRMP/EIS does not contain any such description of compatible and incompatible uses of the Bodie Bowl, except to state broadly, in various ways, that mining in the Bodie Bowl is incompatible with the uses foreored by the DRMP/EIS Additionally, the BLM Manual requires that the 'rationale for ACBC designations in the preferred alternative must be discussed.' Manual § 1613.33E.

ACBC designations in the preferred alternative must be discussed.' Manual § 1613.33E.

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The BLM Manual requires an implementation schedule to be prepared for each ACEC. Section 1613.61. The schedules must identify the "priority, sequence, and costs of implementing activities associated with protection of the ACEC resources or values, including monitoring activities." By The Manual provides that the schedule may be incorporated into other documents such as an implementation schedule for the entire resource management plan. "However, activities associated with the protection of ACEC processing that the entire that the proposed implementation schedule for the protective activities relating to the proposed implementation schedule for or the protective activities relating to the proposed implementation schedule for or the protective activities relating to the proposed of the proposed implementation schedule for or the protective activities relating to the proposed of the p

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In addition to Section 1613 of the Manual which describes the analysis and designation procedures concerning a potential ACSC, Section 1613 of the Manual discusses the designation to a proposed ACSC. As set forth in Section 1613, in order to be considered as a potential ACSC, an area must meet the critical of relevance and importance as established and defined in 45 CRR. § 1610.72. Moreover, Section 16173 of the Manual requires that the boundaries of the ACSC must be specifically described, and "an ACSC should be held to a minimum area necessary to protect the resources on which the designation is based. The ACSC designation, i. is not intended to blanked large areas with specific restrictive sityulations." Manual § 16178.1A.5. The Manual also requires the potential ACSC designation to be "accompanied by descriptive materials, maps, and evidence of the relevance and importance of the values or hazards involved." See Manual § 1617.8B.1. As discussed above, the DRM/PIGS does not set forther relevance or importance of the Bodie Bowl, nor does it provide the necessary descriptive materials, nor does it provide ordence that the designation to be assumal as possible.

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Consequently, the designation in the DRMP/EIS of the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC is an arbitrary and capricious decision without any support in the DRMP/EIS or associated administrative record. Accordingly, BLM's ACEC designation totally fails to combt with the reouirements of federal law and regulations.

D. VRM Classifications

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On page 65 of the DRMP/EIS, the BLM states that it has determined that it will amange the Bodie Bowl as YRM II, and the remainder as VRM III. This determination is a change from the current management designation of YRM II. No analysis, documentation or rationale supporting the proposed change is given in the DRMP/EIS. This proposed classification decision is contrary to BLM guidance regarding visual resource management. See Section 8400 of the BLM Manual. The Bodie Bowl has a long history of mining activities and numerous features of that history currently use present in the area. Mines, tailings, tunnels, buildings, mining equipment, currently use present in the area. Mines, tailings, tunnels, buildings, mining equipment, landscape at Bodie Bowl is Insuppropriets for VRM II abodie Bowl. Consequently, the substantial disturbance of the area from previous mining operations. The proposed VRM I and II classifications concerning the Bodie Bowl and main travel routes are irrespondent of the proposed VRM II and II classifications concerning the Bodie Bowl and main travel routes are irrespondently and the proposed vRM II and II classifications concerning the Bodie Bowl and main travel routes are irrespondent and interpropriate planning decisions for an area with the existing levels of disturbance and where private lands in the immediate vicinity will be developed for mining purposes.

The DRMP/EIS, it states that Tolliorath development would degrade visual resources in the Botel Bond (n. BI). This insigne and intent latterite inclinations would be severely degraded by an open pit mine. "The DRMP/EIS also states that the development of locatable minerals would adversely affect short segments (between 20 and 50 mines) or viewsheeds at specific locations along federal, state, and county roads. In particular, an open pit mine in the Bools Bond would severely impact the visual values." The DRMP/EIS does not identify the critical 'visual values' to be protected by VRM classifications, the geographic scope of the classifications, or key observation points. Nor does it present any analysis. The proposed VRM and II designations appear to be an arbitrary and capricious meaningful open decision ensiting without any basis on the record. Such omission prevents mainly operations in the area, BCMC believes to federal law. Moreover, because of prior mining operations in the area, BCMC believes the area.

55-29 cont. BCMC believes that the VRM I and II designations could predude mining by open pin methods in the Bolde Bowd, and as such violates the rights protected by the Mining Law of 1872. Although the DRMP/EIS states that development of mineral deposits 'would adversely affect short segments of viewbeds,' a significant amount of land would be affected. The DRMP/EIS acknowledges, on pages 181 and 182 of the DRMP/EIS, that only some 'slight to moderate localized benefits to visual resources would occur from ... Bodie Hills ... where hillside road scars would be eliminated.' These unknown 'slight to moderate localized benefits of coalized benefits of not permit meaningful public comment and, therefore, violate the provisions of federal law, and they are unwise planning decisions.

Another example of the inconsistent and irresponsible visual resource determination is as follows: The DRM/P(EIS states that is flowors severe visual restrictions. It plans "a more restrictive VRM class I (6%) and II (40%) and proactive land use prescriptions (e.g., pearlong and seasonal projections, salable minerals prohibition, etc.) designed to eliminate visual impacts [in order to] considerably benefit visual resources in much of the resource race." (Seg. Pol. 1878) and DRA and DRA and DRA regulations. Additionally, such extractions violate the multiple use and sustained yield land planning requirements of FLPMA and if private rights are impacted, it violates the Mining Law of 1872.

E. Historic and Cultural Resource Protection

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The proposals of the BLM concerning historic and cultural resource protection not only violate FEPMA, NEPA and BLM resource management planning requirements, but they also are inconsistent with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, IO U.S.C. § 3470, et. seq. (NHEPA), and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. The BRMFPEIS states, at page 67, that the Preferred Alternative will limit mining or other uses which would diminist the historic integrity of the national handmark. Similarly, the DSMFP is which would diminist the historic site in energy to first produced handmark in the state of the preferred Alternative will limit mining or other uses which would obtain the historic site in several hand the provided of the preferred historic site in the preferred historic site in the historic site in th

ae Bodie Hills is to receive special emphasis under the Preferred Alternative. The DRMP/ EIS states that the Preferred Alternative is very similar to Alternative 3, ontural resource enhancement) "with additional areas recommended for acquisition, interpretation and protection." Alternative 3, in turn, refers to protecting the area around Bodie and states that it would be same as in Alternative 1. Alternative 1, at page 202 of the DRMP/EIS, acknowledges that mining activities would not negatively affect the historic structures Mr. Michael Ferguson January 17, 1991 Page 18

55-30

themselves, but that mining activities might be restricted in order to preserve the historic landscape and setting. Such determination violates FLPMA, NHPA, and NEPA. Alternative I, incorporated by reference into the Preferred Alternative, states that

Mining activities outside of and adjacent to Bodie would have minor negative impact supon historic structures, and a severe negative impact upon the historic landscape and setting, projects in this area will be need to be designed with special care to avoid significant negative impacts. Most impacts would be avoided or miligated within special project proposals. VRM II designation and prohibition of surface occupancy and intensive land use activities within the Bodie Bowl would belp retain the characteristics of the historic mining setting, which is of value to the Park and the National Landmark.

At best these various statements are vaque and internally inconsistent ranging from outright probabilities or outright special project proposals. Unfortunately, the result is that interested parties and the public cannot assess the consequences of BLM's proposal. This failture of the DRM/PIES results directly from a fundamental flaw in BLM's approach to the historic and cultural resource issue. BLM has not included or cited any documentation supporting its proposed decisions because none exists. As describle below, its approach is simply premature in the context of the overall regulatory scheme that exists to deal with historic and cultural resources.

The NHPA at Section 106, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, sets forth the procedure that the head of any federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed federal or federally-assisted undertaking must comply with prior to the approval of the expenditure of sup federal fands on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license. The head of such federal agency is required to "take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for in inclusion in the National Register." Additionally, Section 110 of the NHPA, 16 U.S.C. § 470b-2(t), provides that the bead of a responsible federal agency must, 70 the maximum steature possible, undertake such planning and actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to 'any indical historic landmark which may directly and adversely be affected by 'any federal undertaking. The federal regulations promulgated pursuant to the NHPA set forth in the procedural and substantive requirements for complying with the statute. Sec 36 C.F.R. Parts 63, 65, 68, 800, and 801. Therefore, any proposal to conduct mining activities on federal lands would be subject to such procedural and substantive requirements.

55-30 cont.

More importantly, management and mitigation decisions could be made on the basis of site specific documentation of the cultural resources and detailed plans for the proposed mining activity.

The concepts set forth in the DRMP/EIS to "limit" or "prohibit" mining are totally inconsistent with the substantive standards set by the NHPA and the referenced regulations. Under the NHPA and the associated regulations, Congress was careful not to prohibit activities which adversely affected an NHL, but rather set forth a procedure by which the federal agency could take into account the effects of the proposed federal action on historic properties. Judicial interpretations of the NHPA and its regulations consistently hold that the effects of federal or federally-assisted programs on historic or cultural resources neither forbid the destruction of historic sites nor command their preservation. See, e.g., Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage v. City and County of San Francisco, 155 Cal. Rptr. 401, 106 Cal. App. 3d, 893 (1980); Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation v. Interstate Commerce Commission, 841 F.2d 479 (2d, Cir. 1988); Sierra Club v. Clark, 774 F.2d 1406 (9th Cir. 1985); Nat'l Indian Youth Council, 664 F.2d 220 (10th Cir. 1981). Instead, the agencies are to make rational decisions concerning these resources, following the receipt of input from other agencies, local governments, and interested persons. Consequently, a comprehensive substantive and procedural structure exists pursuant to the NHPA which provides for the protection of NHLs. It is inconsistent with this law and its regulations for the BLM to attempt to make planning decisions in the DRMP/EIS that conflict with or potentially preempt the NHPA regime. Further, BLM's effort here is simply bad policy. Determinations concerning the protection of historic and cultural resources properly are made pursuant to the NHPA. See, 16 U.S.C. §§ 407f and 470h-2(f).

Further, the DRMP/EIS states that it will be "establishing limits of acceptable change for the area of the National Historic Landauric, which! bundl significantly benefit preservation of the historic setting in the area." Seg. p. 205 of DRMP/EIS. No identification of those 'limits of acceptable change' are set forth in the DRMP/EIS. No its there a description of what is meant by the "area of the National Historic Landaurak." Therefore, the public has no ability to comment upon what the BLM is proposing with respect to the NHL or what property it intends to impact with such decision. This vagueness is contravy to feederal law and regulation.

In addition to the critical procedural and substantive shortcomings indicated above, the facts upon which the DRMP/EIS bases its attempts at cultural resource planning decisions are erroneous and, therefore, have no support in the law. On page 143, the DRMP/EIS states that the Bodie 'hijstoric cultural properties are mostly associated with

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 17, 1991 Page 20

55-30

mining and early settlement activities throughout the resource area. . . . Many historic sites are in private ownership. The most notable alse in the eastern Stera is Bodie State Park and the surrounding Bodie Bod area which is designated as a national historic landmark (one of only two on Bureau lands in California). "(Emphasis added). The Bodie Bod is not and has never been established as an NHI. To the extent this faulty assumption forms the basis for other decisions in the DRMP/EIS process now or in the future, those decisions would be fundamentally flawed as well.

F. SRMA Designation

55-31

At pages 49 and 66 of the DRMP/EIS, the Bodie Bowl is identified as a Special Resource Management Area (SRMA*). No justification or basis for such identification is provided, which is inconsistent with the BLM planning regulations. The DRMP/EIS states that Bodie Bowl SRMA will be managed to preserved Bodie's historic integrity in coordination with Bodie State Historic Park.* Contrary to federal law, the DRMP/EIS does not explain what the consequences of this management decision are; nor does it describe the limitations of such decision. That is, will the SRMA only affect land within the extiling boundaries of the Park or Wishin observation of the Parks.* (See Just 2004) and the Parks of the Parks. (See Just 2004) and the Parks of the Parks. (See Just 2004) and to the container discussed with the contrainer of the Parks. (See Just 2004) and the Parks of the Parks o

III. CONCLUSION

55-32

As the foregoing comments clearly demonstrate, the DRMP/EIS is grossly inadequate under the requirements of both FLPMA and NEPA. The DRMP/EIS simply fails to adequately document current or proposed resource conditions. A critical focal point of the inadequase; is the failure of the document and supporting administrative record to provide sufficient information to allow the public an opportunity to undertake a meaningful review and analysis of the potential impact of the document on their interests. This failure, along with the clear errors in the document, also substantially effects the accuracy and validity of the public comments received on the DRMP/EIS. Accordingly, we believe that BLM is required to withdraw the document and prepare a revised draft for public review and comment. In the preparation of the revised offst, BLM must eliminate the clear error and comment. In the preparation of the revised offst, BLM must eliminate the clear when the comment of the revised offst, BLM must eliminate the clear when the comment of the revised offst, BLM must eliminate the clear the comment of the revised offst, BLM must eliminate the clear the comment of the revised offst.

mining bias in the current document, acknowledge that mineral development in the Bodie Bowl is a matter of right and a legitimate land use, and revise the management policies and decisions so that they do not unreasonably restrict or preclude such development. Thank

Sincerely yours,

PARCEL, MAURO, HULTIN & SPAANSTRA, P.C.

Dean R. Massey Eliza F. Hillhouse

ATTORNEYS FOR BODIE CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY

DRM:EFH/dmt

f\elients\2004.1\efboomme.001

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 55 (Dean R. Massey for Bodie Consolidated Mining Co.)

55-1) Resource Area-wide, the draft RMP represents a balanced approach to managing resources as specified in FLPMA. The draft allows for multiple use and sustained yield.

The RMP does not affect a claimant's property rights under the 1872 Mining Law.

BLM is required by regulation to incorporate all local and state requirements in its approval of development projects. A recently-established MOU with Mono County has formalized the requirements. Mining on adjacent private property will be requirements at state laws.

BLM recognizes the mineral potential of the Bodie area. This mineral potential is unquantified at this time. In contrast, we know we have cultural resources of national significance which need protection. While mineral ownership is a right under the 1872 mining law, mineral development is a privilege that requires responsible environmental management under FLPMA. The RMP establishes quidelines for this management.

55-2) Benefits to the local economy are a consideration for review of any mining project. However, cultural and historic values do not have equivalents in monetary measure. The draft RMP does not seek to eliminate mining from the Bodie Bowl, but only to ensure adequate protection of other resources.

The popular local support or opposition to a development project is important, but national needs must also be considered. The RMP describes a management goal that has national significance.

55-3) You have accurately quoted FLPMA, and your opinions have been noted. Implementation of FLPMA does not require multiple use on each tiny parcel of the Public Lands. Where one resource is of overriding concern, management of that area may be dedicated to that resource. The intent is that multiple uses be provided for somewhere on the Public Lands. We consider the Bodie National Historic Landmark to be of extreme importance both locally and nationally and have made the decision to protect it from discretionary projects using some of the restrictions you have noted.

Ingress and egress to a mining claim does not have to be given if it would cause irreparable damage to cultural and historic resources. This possibility was known at the time that the current mining claims were located. Therefore, it is not a "taking" of property to deny incress or egress on that basis.

- 55-4) Please see the rewritten minerals impacts section in Chapter 4 for a review of impacts upon mineral development. Also see the general Bodie response (p.5-5). The RIMP establishes management direction for the review of any project in the Bodie Bowl area. Specific guidelines will be developed (with full public input) following completion of this RIMP. To date, BLM has not received a specific proposal from any mining operator. If a plan of operations is ever submitted, an EA or EIS will be prepared to determine if it can meet the management direction and guidelines set forth in the RIMP. Please note, the VRIM I restriction has been changed.
- 55-5) The quotation from 1601.1 is that BLM "may" consider the guidance developed. We have utilized this guidance. We have also provided ample opportunity for public input and comment; see response 51-1. We have made numerous changes to our decisions based upon that input.
- 55-6) We have received a few comments that parts of the draft EIS were difficult to understand. The minerals and range portions have been completely rewritten in the final.

The RMP is not site-specific. Management goals provide general direction for entire management areas. For this reason, operators of specific projects may feel that the plan is vague regarding their project. This is not a falling of the RMP. Specific projects will be evaluated in separate environmental documents.

55-7) The RMP recognizes that the Bodie Bowl is an area of high mineral potential. We have no data to indicate precisely where any future development might be proposed. Until such data are submitted by industry, management must be based on existing data. The term 'known mineral resource' assumes quantification of in-place mineralization.

We have coordinated with state and local governments, other federal and state agencies, and Indian tribal groups. State and local governments allow mineral development if it is conducted in an environmentally sound manner. This RMP does the same. At Bodle, we recognize the importance of the historic resources associated with the State Park and the National Historic Landmark and have made decisions to protect those resources. Projects which can be designed to meet the guidelines to be developed within the ACEC plan will be allowed. Projects which cannot meet the guidelines will be denied, whether for recreation, wildlife enhancement, or mineral development.

55-8) The information required in BLM Manual section 1612 has been included in the RMP for the Resource Area as a whole. More detailed and specific information about effects of a potential mineral development in the Bodie area will have to wait until a proposal for such an operation is made, and will be part of the separate environmental document for that project. At that time the site-specific socioeconomic information you identified will be addressed.

The procedure outlined in BLM Manual section 1616.7 for selection of a preferred alternative was followed.

The perception that the overall document is overwhelmingly biased against mineral development in favor of recreation and wildlife is incorrect. In the past, recreation and wildlife have not been properly addressed. In fact 96% of the Resource Area is open to mineral entry under the Preferred Alternative.

55-9) Looking at the entire Resource Area, the decision is a "balanced" one. There is no requirement that it be so, and this wording has been changed in the final. As explained above (responses 55-3 & 4), FLPMA does not require that each individual parcel of land be manaced to accommodate every potential resource use.

The Bodie area contains a mineral resource of an unknown quantity, amount, and economic availability (source: BCMC is still in an exploratory phase with "no plans to submit a mining plan for two years" – personal communications with Mark Whitehead on several occasions).

The Bodie area contains historic resources of national significance (National Historic Landmark and California State Historic Park).

Our management intent is to protect the historic resources, one part of which is the integrity of the historic landscape. There is a change in management policy between the draft RMP and the older Management Framework Plan of 1982. The decisions we are proposing, with the guidelines and "limits of acceptable change" which will be developed with future public input, are intended to better protect these nationally significant resources from all types of potentially damaging projects.

Whether or not these decisions will effectively prevent BCMC from developing its patented and unpatented mining claims in and around the Bodie Bowl would be more properly addressed in a separate site-specific EIS upon receipt of a Plan of Operations from BCMC. BCMC also has the option of taking its claims to patent.

Your comments about VRM and ACEC classifications are addressed in the general Bodie response.

55-10) The actual guidelines, criteria, and standards for proposed projects in the Bodie area will be developed in a separate ACEC plan that keys off the guidelines made in the RMP. As stated above, the management intent is to protect the nationally significant historic resources.

The management direction described in the RMP is based on available data. Therefore, the decisions based on these data are neither arbitrary nor capricious.

55-11) The statistical analysis of impacts to minerals from other resources is in Chapter 4 of the final plan.

The minerals sections of the final have been rewritten to clarify some of the confusion. The term "effective withdrawal" has been removed.

55-12) References to Bodie as a mining "super project" have been removed from the final. The RMP does not evaluate specific projects based on their proximity to other potentially incompatible uses.

The historic resources have been in place for over 100 years and their value was recognized in 1961 through designation of the National Historic Landmark. This was long before BCMC became involved in exploration at Bodie. This RMP is focusing the management direction to protect those recognized resource values, no matter what activity might be proposed at a later date within the area.

55-13) The decision to enhance wildlife and recreational values on lands adjacent to possible future mining projects is an acceptable choice between various management alternatives. This decision does not necessarily prohibit future mining; it only sets certain guidelines that any future development proposal must meet. We recognize the national significance of the historic resources associated with Bodie and have made decisions to protect those resources. Projects will be allowed which can be designed to meet the protective guidelines to be developed. Projects which cannot meet the guidelines will be denied, whether for mineral development or other purposes.

We recognize that BCMC has valid existing rights under the mining law. We have the responsibility to protect the resources of the area as well as allow commodity production. We recognize that there appears to be some conflict between the mining law and subsequent environmental protection laws which we are also required to administer.

55-14) Please see chapter 4 of the final RMP, in which the minerals sections have been rewritten.

The classification of future projects as 'super' projects has been deleted from the final RMP. It is recognized that most mining projects are small (less than 10,000 tons), but that a few will be comparatively large (greater than 1,000,000 tons). Based on our general knowledge of disseminated gold deposits in the western U.S., we expect that the Bodie Bowl may contain a relatively large low-grade deposit. That is why we initially described it as a possible 'super project'.

55-15) Again, please see Chapter 4 of the final RMP.

The estimate that 50% of the mineral deposits would be developed reflected our best guess of effects throughout the Bodie Management Area. We did not attempt to distinguish between impacts to development on private and public lands.

The prescription of multiple use does not require that every single deposit be developed, but only that some deposits be permitted in order to meet multiple use/sustained yield goals.

55-16) The percentages of impact to minerals from visual, seasonal and year-long restrictions were established by a matrix which overlaid various resource restrictions with a general mineral potential map. The overlay process shows percentages of overlap, but the analysis was not tied to specific claims. This matrix is reproduced as a Table in Chapter 4 of the final. Restrictions which apply to the Bodie area under Alternative 4 are year-long (i.e. the ACEC). These restrictions apply only to federal lands, not to the private lands.

- 55-17) The estimate that 9 mineral deposits will not be developed has been deleted from the rewritten analysis in Chapter 4 of the final.
- 55-18) Please see response 54-4 for an explanation of these figures. They have been deleted from the final. These impacts would properly be addressed in an EIS, should we receive a proposal for mineral development at Bodie.

The cultural and historic resources of the Bodie Bowl are of national significance upon which it is impossible to place a monetary value. We have rewritten portions of the final to more clearly indicate our intention to protect these resources. We recognize that protection of these resources will have a direct consequence on the cost of mining in the Bodie Bowl and may result in smaller amounts of material that can be mined at a profit. The 50% figure was our best estimate of impact to mining based on available data. It may be that the 50% figure is too low, but this cannot be determined without additional data and environmental review which will occur should we receive a plan of operations from BCMC.

55-19) The RMP guidelines apply only to public lands. The plan prescribes no management direction for private lands. The impact analysis of Alternatives 1-4 did not make a distinction between the distribution of private and public lands in the management area, because it was a regionally-based statistical analysis.

The RMP does not constitute nor does it prescribe a "taking" of property rights. It describes the environmental goals that BLM desires to meet within the life of the plan. A decision on the issue of "taking" may be made after a mining plan of operations is submitted to BLM. This decision will be reached through the NEPA process at that time.

- 55-20) Executive Order 1230 applies only to site-specific actions, and not to RMP documents. Since "taking" actions are neither expressed nor implied by the RMP, the "taking" implementation analyses are not required.
- 55-21) The establishment of an ACEC for the Bodie Bowl was based on minimum BLM regulatory requirements.
- 55-22) Your citations of BLM regulation and manual are noted. Both relevance and importance for the ACEC were established and documented according to these regulatory guidelines. The Bodie State Park and National Historic Landmark contain cultural values of national significance.
- 55-23) The baseline minerals inventory upon which the RMP goals were established is contained in the GEM inventories for the Bodie Wilderness Study Area. Cultural inventories for establishment of the National Historic Landmark were done by the National Park Service. There are ongoing studies to properly designate a boundary, but the original establishment of the Landmark is evidence of the significance of that resource.
- 55-24) The RMP describes a general environmental goal for the entire Bodie Management Area and the ACEC. Site-specific management stipulations within the ACEC will be detailed in the ACEC plan which will follow the RMP. Completion of this plan will include full public participation.
- 55-25) Effects of management prescriptions on minerals resources need not be analyzed as part of the ACEC designation. At this time, we have received no proposal for mineral development upon which to base any such analysis. The effect of the designation upon developmental proposals will be considered as part of the

- environmental review of specific projects which may be proposed within the ACEC in the future.
- 55-26) A rationale for the designation of the ACEC is contained within the rationale for the Bodie Mountain Management Area in Chapter 2 of the final RMP.

Time frames for implementation of the ACEC are within a DEC tracking system in the resource area office. This system contains time frames and costs of implementation of all of the decisions within the RMP. It is available for public inspection.

- 55-27) The area covered by the ACEC was established according to guidelines set forth in 43 CFR 1610.7-2, and was made as small as possible, yet large enough to protect the cultural and historic values therein.
- 55-28) The draft RMP management prescriptions are neither arbitrary nor capricious because they are based on cultural and mineral inventories that were objective and unbiased as per BLM regulation and manual requirements.
- 55-29) The VRM classification for the Bodie Bowl has been modified in the final RMP. See the general response to Bodie comments for an explanation. Also see minerals general response (p.5-13), item 3.
- 55-30) See the general Bodie response for a full description of our management intent within the Bodie Bowl.

Knowing that there is potential for damage to the nationally significant resources within the Bodie Bowl, the BLM is taking a proactive approach to protect those resources by establishing developmental standards for any project (mining or otherwise). The "limits of acceptable change" guidelines will be developed following completion of the RIMP. As this federal action will have an effect upon a significant cultural resource, there will be Section 106 consultation, as well as input from the public and numerous involved agencies.

The National Historic Preservation Act does not automatically preclude mining. However, it does describe mitigation practices that must be followed in any land management exercise. We have incorporated these rules into the RMP.

- 55-31) Designation of the Bodie Bowl as a Special Recreation Management Area is consistent with BLM planning regulation and with FLPMA. This designation will result in more management attention to recreational activities within the Bowl, and will not affect mining or other programs. Again, our management does not apoly to non-federal lands.
- 55-32) The information upon which we have based the RMP decisions is contained within the RMP and administrative records. Again, while allowing mineral development on public lands, we are also responsible to protect other resource values. This plan was developed with public input as well as input from many resource specialists, and does provide for the protection and development of the many resources we manage. It is the final, and there will not be another cireft.

Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, Ca. 93514 January 16, 1991

Comments on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement 0

- Saction 202(c)(7) of the FLPMA, states "the Bureau will weight
 for long term benefits to the public against short term benefits".
 To that end, mining has little benefit compared to recreational
 and visual attributes, and even if a reasonable reclamation plan
 is completed, the net affact left on the economy after a mine le
 is completed, the net affact left on the economy after a mine le
 historical, and visual should have recreational. environmental,
 historical, and visual should have been presented and an infing should not be permitted unless these other values are
 negligible (with long term use in mind).
- No 12 of the general policy states "Blm will comply with provisions of section 106 of the Mistoric Preservation Act including consultation with State Historic Preservation of frice and the National Advisory Council for actions which may impact significant cultural resources." The State Historic Preservation Office opposes any mining in the vicinity of Bodie.
- General Policy should be adjusted to give greater importance to 5.-3 erreational and visual qualities over mining interests. The plan, as is, gives an overriding acceptance of mining over any other uses. There should be an easy avenue for removing a mining the mining "maps" / mineral resource designations, are not cause rate.
- 56.4 major readways. Considering scenic or pleasure driving is the second most popular form of recreation in the Country, views from readways should all be classified as Visual Resource Management 2, not withstanding obvious sections of future development. The importance of protecting the visual viewshed from the readway should all considered for most, if not all, of the readways in accordance with the Mational Scenic Bywesp program.
- 56-5 (identification of resources) came from. Any such designation should be from USGS surveyed process.

- Remove Bodie Bowl and all area's surrounding it from potential 5.5 mining classification and classify as ACEC. Address the impact of mining trucks on the same roads that are heavily used by visitors / bourlests / sighteers, and re direct, or prohibit. These same considerations should be added to the Potato Peak area, and Dog Town area, Not oreck area, and Alabama Hills erea.
- 56-7 Mining designation should be removed from the Alabama Hills. ACEC would be more appropriate.
- 54-5 to series if the proposed alignment of power lines has been to merely use a straight line of least resistance, rather than considering present and future impact on sensitive area's and viewshed. Analyze alternatives for least impact on vieual and sensitive areas for power line placement(s), and require placement accordingly.
- Though unlikely, I recommend switching management of Geothermal from BLM to USFS.

Submitted by: (faxed January 17, 1991)

Greg Newbry P.O. Box 526 Mammoth Lakes, Ca. 93546 619-934-6925 Hm

619-934-8983 Wk

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 56 (Greg Newbry)

- 56-1) The preferred alternative has established long-term resource condition standards throughout the resource area. Resource condition standards encompass recreation, visual resources, historic values, wildlife habitat, etc. Most of the resource area is open to mineral exploration/development (96%) and livestock grazing (81%). All land uses would be required to conform to these objectives.
- 56-2) Thank you for your comment; it has been noted.
- 56-3) Please see response 37-1.
- 56-4) Visual resource management classes were increased in the preferred alternative along viewsheds considered sensitive to landscape contrasts. A close review of the preferred alternative in comparison to Alternative 1 (present management) will reveal that visual resources protection along most scenic byways was maintained or increased. Overall, 48% of the resource area is under VRM 1 and 2 in the preferred alternative while 26% is under VRM 1 and 2 in the present management alternative.
- 56-5) The sources to identify mineral potential include past and current mineral activity, production reports, known mineral resource maps, geological maps, and the professional judgement of Bureau geologists.
- 56-6) Bodie Bowl is proposed as an ACEC.

Until a mining proposal is received, an assessment of potential impacts must be general (we don't know which roads might be used, etc.).

Your comments about Potato Peak, Hot Creek, Dog Town and Alabama Hills are noted. Similar designations were considered for these areas

- 56-7) A minerals withdrawal was considered under Alternative 1 (present management) but was determined to be unnecessary because the area has low locatable mineral development potential. The likelihood of mineral impacts to the area's scenic values is considered unlikely. Also, the current Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRIMA) designation would provide protection and management of the area similar to that of an ACEC.
- 56-8) The three east-west corridor areas considered were the only areas identified in which existing or proposed land use allocations, terrain, or management emphasis did not necessarily preclude transmission line corridor uses. They were not identified based upon their location or a "straight line of least resistance" oriterion. The impacts section of the draft RMM gives the estimated impacts of corridor use on specific resources within each of the areas considered. See the general response for the corridor study (n.5-16).
- 56-9) Congress, through the Geothermal Steam Act (PL 91-581), gave the Secretary of the Interior authority to direct BLM to manage geothermal energy. In addition, national policy as set in the interagency agreement between BLM and USFS directs BLM to manage deothermal leases on USFS land.

TRI VALLEY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 723 BISHOP, CA. 93515

January 17, 1991

Dear Mr. Brinkt

Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main St. Bishop, Ca. 93514

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan

Attention: C. Holden Brink Team Leader

57-1

As a result of the Tri Valley Planning Advisory Commission meeting held on January 9, 1991, I as writing to establish the commission's opposition to any proposed power line and Chalfant Valley). It was the general feeling of the members of the commission that they would not be in favor any new power line corridors in close proximity to a

Other than the adverse effect on the scenic beauty, there is great concern that there would also be adverse effects on the health of the general public. There have been studies made which are atill ongoing regarding the possible health problems from the emmission of ENT. Our commission of the contract of the contract

We feel that prior to any new power line corridors being approved, there should be substantial evidence that there would be no adverse impact on the health of the people.

Thank you for attending our meeting and providing us with valuable information.

Our Commission of fifteen (15) members represents the residents of the three valleys. We hold monthly meetings which are open to the public.

Thank you again.

Very truly yours,

Betty Potterville

Secretary

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 57 (Tri-Valley Planning Advisory Commission)

57-1) The draft RMP's preferred alternative designates the existing north-south DC Intertile route as a transmission line corridor. There are no new corridors being proposed for designation within Berton, Hammil, or Chalfant Valley. Corridor designation of the DC Intertile route does not make it more probable that the Tri-Valley area would, at some future point in time, be considered for a new transmission line corridor (see response 7-2).

The corridor study considered and addressed the issue of possible health problems associated with prolonged human exposure to electromagnetic fields emitted by high voltage transmission lines. See p.208 of the draft RMP. See also the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16, final RMP).

January 16, 1991

BLM Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main St., Suite P Bishop, Ca. 93514

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Four J Cattle Corporation is a family corporation involved in extensive farm and livestock production in inyo and Mono Countles. The ranch consists of private land leased from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, various BLM and Inyo National Forest Service permits. Our Long Valley lease encompasses land along the Owens River from approximately one mille north of Benton Crossing to Crowley Lake, Leighton Springs to the east, and North Landing to the west. We hold the Wilfred Creek allotment. Ranching operations have changed little in the last 40 years in this area. Four J Cattle depends on this area for summer pasture for a portion of your cow perd.

58-1

Livestock grazing is an integral part of the economy of the Eastern Sierra The elimination of grazing appears to be a major theme of the Management plan. Acquisition of privately held lands primarily used for grazing in the Long Valley area, would have severe economic and social impact on ranchers there. Any land acquisition by the BLM is unacceptable. Attempts by the BLM to take private land off the local tax rolls would cause flanancial hardships on already distressed local governments.

As the permittee on the Wilfred Creek Allotment in the Long Valley tranagement area for last twenty four years, I have been aware of fluctuations of the sage grouse population. Management decisions concerning hunting have had more of an impact on the sage grouse than livestock grazing. Without a hunting season, sage grouse have florished under present grazing management. Hunting, poaching, and recreational pressures (unauthorized use of hot springs) cause major problems for the sage grouse. Sage grouse use our irrigated meadows as strutting grounds.

Concerning the Owens Valley Management Area, the statement on page 46. "If tule eix numbers deciline to less than 440 due to competition with livestock, a livestock adjustment will be considered", Is a ludicrous statement. Livestock competition never has, and never will have an effect on the number of tule eix. Tule eix have flourished in the Owen Valley since their introduction. Our ranch is the home of the Tinnemaha herd. Fish Springs herd, Goodale herd, and a portion of the Independence herd. In the dry years since 1986 to present, many of the eix survive solely on our alfalfa fields. Their numbers have not decreased. Increased protection of the eix calving areas is not needed. This report appears to be a wildlife biologist's wish list with little regard for established multiple use concepts governing BLM lands.

Mark Johns
Four J Cattle Corp.
Star Rt., Box 5
Big Pine, Ca 93513

58-2

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 58 (Mark Johns)

- 58-1) Grazing on acquired lands can continue under BLM multiple use management, so serious economic and social impacts on ranchers are not anticipated. See also general responses for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9) and for livestock grazing (p.5-10).
- 58-2) We appreciate your concern with the condition of the Long Valley sage grouse population. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 58-3) We are aware that tule elk use alfalfa fields in the Owens Valley. Our concern with elk calving areas and livestock involves the spatial displacement of elk cows from birthing areas and not forage competition. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.



SIERRA CLUB

California/Nevada RCC Mining Committee P.O. Drawer W, Independence, CA 93526 Stan Haye, Chair. (619) 878-2244

1/14/90

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan

Dear Sir:

59-1

59-2

The Sierra Club recognizes that mining is a valuable and necessary activity, and that mining done in an environmentally sound manner should be allowed.

However, there are some areas where mining should be closely regulated, discouraged, or not allowed. The Bishop Resource Management Plan should identify these areas and appropriately requisite mining.

The preferred alternative does not protect areas which could be seriously componised by mining. In these sensitive areas, potential recovers values, such as scenic, viidlife, or plants, abould be the large process. The protection of the protection of the content of the southern way more content of the content of the content of the large sming law, as well as AGEU's, and a buffer zone around Nono Lake should be vithdrawn from genthernal leasing, Vilderness Stody Areas need to be clearly identified, and mining on valid existing claims in these areas should be strictly regulated according to libe regulations

do not address the many probless other than visual that mining can cause, such as vater quality, noise, and estains effects from Diating. The Southern Inyo Mountains contain several plants and anisals that are candidates for threatened/endangered species listing, as well as an outstanding place for vilderness recreation. The EMH should also be supporting the State of California in it so objectives of providing a unique, outstanding visitor experience in Bodie State Park, not visit to the providing a visit of the providing and the state of California in the size of the state of the st

VRM objectives are not adequate to protect Bodie and the WSA's, as they

18s noted in your Becember 21 letter, the current level of mining 59:3 - ctivity should be correctly stated, and that any inaccurate assumptions oncerning mining impact should be corrected. Also, it should be made clear that mitigation and reclamation are as much a part of the cost of mining as the fine and fill inpt., and that the amount of mitigation and public removers, not on the economic viability of the mine.

Sincerely,

Stan Have

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth, . .

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 59 (Stan Haye, Sierra Club Mining Committee)

59-1) Land uses proposed on public lands would be required to conform to resource condition standards identified in the final RMP. This includes scenic values, DPCs, etc. Mining is permitted but must conform to the condition standards. A portion of the southern Inyo Mountains would be withdrawn from mineral entry if it is designated wilderness. The remainder of the southern Inyos would be open for mineral entry.

Although it would prevent new claim entry, a minerals withdrawal in the Bodie Bowl would not affect existing claimants' rights to develop their claims. Most of the Bodie Bowl is currently claimed. Except for our proposed withdrawal in a portion of the Bodie Bowl (see p.2-22, final RMP), areas where mineral development potential is moderate to high were not withdrawn because it was believed that overall resource condition standards could be accomplished through Bureau regulation and policy. In other locations such as ACECs or geothermal leasing areas, it was determined that the area's resource values would be minimally affected by minerals related development because of top voptential.

See Chapter One, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

(9-2) We agree that VRM objectives are not adequate by themselves to protect an area. WSAs are protected as needed, as well as through the 3802 regulations.

Comment noted on southern Inyos.

Protection of Bodie and the National Historic Landmark is one of the prime goals of the RMP. While there has been no proposal for an open-pit gold mine on Bodie Bluff, we are aware of the potential for such a proposal. Our decisions relating to the Bodie Bowl are intended to protect the historic and visual resources of the National Historic Landmark and proposed ACEC by setting standards or criteria that any proposed project (be it wildlife enhancement, recreation or mining) must meet. See the general Bodie response (0.5-5).

59-3) See the geothermal general response (p.5-15).

Southern California Edison Company

1190 DURFEE AVENUE, SUITE 250 SOUTH EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA 91733

January 17, 1991

TEA.EPHONE (010) 302-0261

NORTHERN REGION
LAND SERVICES DIVISION
REAL PROPERTIES AND
MANUSTRATIVE SERVICES

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

SUBJECT: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your draft Plan for the Bishop Resource Area. Southern California Edison Company strongly supports multiple use planning and the overall objectives of this Plan. We are especially pleased with the cooperation shown between the Bureau and the U. S. Forest Service to recognize the importance of utility corridors and including a corridor study as a major component of this plan.

The designation of the Soldier Caryon east-west planning corridor is of special importance for the development of future options to supply the electrical energy requirements of Southern California. While Southern California Edison Company does not have an immediate need for additional power sources, the designation of corridors by the land management agencies will aid in identifying the most economical and feasible means of providing for our customers' future needs:

Following are specific comments on the Plan:

60-1

The Plan (page 51) indicates that corridors were not designated along the 115kV transmission lines to Mammoth as the lines have sufficient capacity to meet the electrical needs for the next 15 years. While we agree that a corridor designation is not appropriate along this route, it

Mr	Michael	A	Ferguson

60-1

cont.

40-6

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January 17, 1991

could be necessary to upgrade one or more of the 115kV lines traversing the Resource Area during this period. An upgrade could consist of the installation of new conductors, new structures or additional circuits, increasing the voltage level or other such modification.

-2-

4.0-2 | 2. The third condition (page 49) applicable to the corridors should clarify that the study would only be conducted for the portion of the corridor to be occupied by the new ROW.

Conditions Applying to all Corridor Alternatives (page 90)
 Condition 13. The requirement to restore and revegetate all disturbed areas does not appear to be appropriate for areas where there is no environmental sensitivity.

b. Condition 15. The requirement appears to assume that all structures will be painted. Actually painting should only be considered in cases where there are extremely high visual sensitivities.

4. Impact on Prolonged Human Exposure to Electro-Magnetic Fields (page 208)
a. Paragraph 1, line 3, change "... exposure to electomagnetic fields (EMF) emitted by electric transmission lines." to "... exposure to power frequency (60 hertz) electric and magnetic (EM) fields from electric transmission lines."

B. Paragraph 3, line 7, Replace "universally" with "generally".
 Paragraph 4, line 5, delete "Furthermore, research ... centerline".

We have no knowledge of any research projects that have identified any specific distance from a transmission line as being safe or unsafe.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on your draft plan. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 818-302-0267.

Sincerely,

F. R. OWINGS

Real Properties Consultant

fro

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 60 (Southern California Edison Company)

- 60-1) The plan would not cancel existing rights held by SCE for these lines. Some modification could be done within the constraints of the existing right-of-way grant. If the upgrading went beyond what is authorized by the grant, a right-of-way amendment would be required. In this case, mitigation in the yearlong protection zone could increase construction costs, but it would not prohibit upgrading or modification of the lines.
- 60-2) Condition #3 is purposely intended to make the first applicant for a R-O-W, within either of the designated north-south corridors, responsible for a study to determine not only the impacts of the applicant's proposal, but also the impacts of additional lines within the corridor. From such a study, land management agencies will be able to make both immediate and long-range decisions with respect to both the applicant's proposal and the corridor's capacity to accommodate additional lines without causing unacceptable environmental impacts.
- 60-3) Condition #13 (page 91, draft RMP) will be applied whenever necessary to mitigate the impacts which site disturbance may have on wildlife habitat, natural vegetative conditions, soil stability, and visual quality. More specific revegetation requirements that might be necessary to mitigate the impacts of site disturbance will be determined from a site specific environmental analysis of each proposed project within a designated corridor.
- 60-4) See condition #12, final RMP.
- 60-5) This has been revised as suggested to more specifically address the type of EMF exposure which has become a concern.
- 60-6) The word "universally" has been replaced by the word "generally".
- 60-7) See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).



AN1 (20) 114-49

January 15, 1991

EXPLORATION DIVISION

MAILING ADDRESS

305 022

61

61-2

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Attn: Mr. Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager

RE: Comments on Draft Bishop BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) and
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Homestake Mining Company (HMCo) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and EIS as referenced above. Our review of the draft RMP/EIS, although not detailed in all respects, has concentrated on review of the particular discussions pertaining to mineral resources in the Bishop Resource Area.

During the RMP review, we were reminded of our comments (see May 2, 1900 HMCO letter to BLM attacked) made regarding the public involvement processes that your office was implementing during the RMP development stages. The resulting product of that effort leaves us confused as to what happened during that process to further heighten our concerns level over treatment of mineral resources, as well as other resources, in the Blabay Resource Area. Those concerns, as lower of which we believe to be major in nature, are bridgy presented in the Blabaria;

As a general comment, after cursory review of the draft RMP, it is evident that mineral resources will receive a much lower priority than other natural resources if Alternative 3 - the Natural Resource Enhancement, or Alternative 4 - the Preferred Alternative, is selected for BLM management implementation. Throughout the Plan it is all too apparent that BLM resource personnel spent much more effort developing information for the informed reader to reach decisions concerning all other resources in comparison to that for mineral resources. For example, Chapter 4 presents over 2 pages of focused explanation of impacts just on the quail and sage grouse population aspects of wildlife resources (8 pages total on fish and wildlife) compared with approximately 1½ pages total on the impacts to overall mineral resource development. These detailed explanations present improvements to, or enhancement of, wildlife habitat and support of higher wildlife numbers as a result of selecting certain Alternatives while selection of those same Alternatives result in consistent reductions in the amount of mineral lands that can be developed. We understand and recognize that the BLM cannot manage to develop minerals; mineral resource development is based upon market demands and development and production objectives of mining companies. By the same token, however, the BLM is charged with balancing of public land uses and assuring that various resources are available for the overall benefit of society and public good. Therefore, why should the draft RMP provide substantially greater information on, and more detailed evaluation of, some resources in comparison to others? Regulations in the National Mr. M. Ferguson January 15, 1991 Page 2 of 3

61-1 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require that the draft RMP must include adequate information concerning all management actions and resource decisions including the ramifications of withdrawing or significantly restricting lands from mineral development.

We must take exception to statements that appear throughout the draft RMP referring to negative impacts that will occur from mining activities in the Resource Area. The following areas point out only a few of the cases which contribute to the overall negative document tone toward mineral resource considerations.

PAGE REFERENCE	DRAFT RMP COMMENT	
23	" Numerous conflicts with other surface resources, such as wildlife habitat and visual resources, arise from the intense nature of this (mining) land use."	
92-93	" Some localized adverse impacts (to recreation) from mining would occur locally at Golden Gate Mine area."	
94	" Riparian/aquatic habitat condition would measurably decline over the long term due tomineral development"	
96	"most recreation opportunitieswould remain about the same with some severe localized degradation from mineral exploration / development"	
176	" The main sources of air pollution from Bureau lands are dust and exhaust emissions from activities such as mineral exploration and development."	
183	" A major mining operation at the Bodie Bowl would be incompatible with the recreation and historic values of the area."	

The draft RMP provides no proof that these above quoted impacts are likely to, or actually will, occur. The draft RMP must provide specific information which the reader can legically use to determine if the BLM conclusions are justified. Existing local, state and federal laws prohibit mining companies from destroying, among other things, important wildlife labilat, polluting air or water resources, and destroying significant cultural features. In the vast majority of cases, other users of Bureau lands are not subject to the same, or as rigorous, permitting constraints or operating excititions as those imposed on minear lessource development and operational activities.

61-3 We must also take vigorous exception to the repeated reference to "super" projects in relation to future potential mineral development projects that may occur in the Bishop Resource Area. This term is not defined, quantified, or qualified and severe so purpose other than to

61-1

Mr. M. Ferguson January 15, 1991 Page 3 of 3

61-4

61-5

61:3 sensationalize and distort the public perception, whether positive or negative, of those potential projects should they be proposed in the future.

As a final personal comment, I would like the record to show that Homestake has provided my time and the necessary openses to participate as a devering committee member in the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRM) process in the Bodie Hills region of the Bishop BM Resource Area since late 1983. During that time many members of the committee assisted in developing working management plans for several allotments or planning units throughout the Bodie Hills. It was believed by those involved in the process that sound management plans and decisions were being made to provide for reasoned resource decisions in the area. After review of the drift RMP under current confidention, I question the relevance of those efforts. It appears that the Boreas' contempted management planning objectives for the drift of the

Based on the review of the draft RMP and the foregoing comments, it is felt that inadequate information is provided for the public to make rational decisions concerning proper BLM management of the public lands in the Bishop RA. Therefore we must protest the draft RMP as written and further request that another Draft Resource Management Plan and EIS be prepared and submitted for nublic review.

Thank you again for your time and attention on this matter and for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the draft document. Should you or members of your planning or resource specialist staff have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Alan D. Cox
Regional ManagerEnvironmental Affairs

ADC:nac

Mr. S. Walker - Chairman, Bodie Hills CRM Steering Committee



MINING COMPANY

195 GLENDALE, SCITTE 18, SPARKS, NEVADA 89431

305.02

[702] 331-6960

May 2, 1990

EXPLORATION DIVISION

MAILING ADDRESS

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514-2498

Attn: Mr. Mike Ferguson, Area Manager

E: Bishop Resource Management Plan -Input / Comments for Development of Preferred
Alternative

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

After stending the Gishop RMP public meeting/workshop on April 26 is Rédigaport and providing some perferiment providing some providing some providing some providing some providing some of my major concerns be relievated and summarized here. First, however, I would like to commend you and members of your staff for the added orbit that has been pri forth soldings easily public comment regarding development of the RMP. It is is a vedcome departure from the cases. The first directed effort to sold in providing some providing

As discussed previously, it is come very afficient in some very afficient in the point of the control obtained at the point of the control of the

General Comment # 1

Although a well used (and sometimes abused) concept, multiple use management of public domain lands should confrue to receive great emphasis despite growing public needs which are viewed as conflicting with each other for many given areas of land. Single use management, or emphasized management for a confining proceived preferred land rus les to a specific land area, is becoming a commonglace occurrence within public flund managing agencies across the West. In my estimated, his choosing the "oasy out" for managing public domain lands as it is far easier to exclude all fand uses except the "designated" use for an area than to continually strive to achieve confilier resolution and/or miligation among two or more uses in the same area. The latter, more difficult of the two management choices, however, results in a more desirous condition for utilization, use, and englyoment of public lands in general.

Mike Ferguson Page 2 May 2, 1990

The Summary of RMP Alternatives, distributed to the public via your March 22, 1990 letter, does not support the concept of multiple use management to the degree that it should. The understone of enhancing or emphasizing recreation and widdlie/vegelation habital protection as loand in several of the plan alternatives are not supportive of the multiple use concept. Containing to allow seamingly conflicting uses the habity to count in a specific refus, under the protection of the plan alternative are not supported to the support that protection of the uses.

General Comment # 2

In the Mirch 22, 1590 letter and accompanying Sturmary of RMP Alternatives, mention was made in several places of proposing the Bishop Resource Area for designation as a National Conservation Area (NCA). Although we must exercise restraint in advancing an unqualified endocrament of this approach dus to the many unknown that are present, our initial reaction is positive. It is assumed that NCA designation would foster the multiple use concept and wednessed in the COCO would suspoor this lides.

General Comment # 3 - Mineral Resources Comment

With the exception of Allemative I and II, all other prefirminary alternatives for the RMP suggest various numbers and arceages for mineral withdrawals, whether it be for locabilities or both. We must take vigorous exception to mineral withdrawals except in exceptional circumstances. The number, size, and arceage of withdrawals under Allematives III and IV are very inappropriate and do not consider any potential for reasonable mitigation at specific locations should resource conflicts size due to mineral interest in a specific location set in the source conflicts size due to mineral interest in a specific location size supported on an objective resource conflict basis. Additionally, we mineral releasing closures presented in Alternatives IV, vi and V, which range in acreage from 2,800 to 55,000 acres are quite high and, again from an objective resource evaluation, it is doubtful that sociation for under the conflict size. Additionally, we mineral that sociation of a conflict size of the conflict size of the conflict size of the conflict size. Additionally, the mineral leasing closures are quite high and again from an objective resource evaluation, it is doubtful that sociation of a conflict size of the conflict size.

General Comment # 4 - Mineral Resources Comment

Alternatives I and II, which are reflective of the present management situation, are supported in terms of the two (2) designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's) in the Bodie Hills MA portion on the Bishop RA. We object to the proposed new and additional ACEC's in the Bodie Hills MA that are suggested in Atternatives III, IV, and V; we cannot comment

Mike Ferguson Page 3 May 2, 1990

specifically on the merits of ACEC designations in other MA's within the Bishop RA. The Bodie Hells MA CRM planning process, of which you are quite families, it she tours where we believe that any special resource values should be considered and consensus reached as to management of specific area. It is not orphinin that resource of the Bodie Hills MA will send a missage to fitness of us involved in the CRM process that we cannot effectively reached resource conflicts and provide the mechanism for entaneours and emprovement of the reached resource conflicts and provide the mechanism for entaneours and emprovement of the specific provides of the provides of the process of the process that we cannot effectively reached resource conflicts and provide in embersation for entaneours and emprovement of the provides and the provides of the provides of the process of the provides of the provides

Once again, I would like to commend you and your staff for your diligent efforts to foster public involvement in the RMP process. Those efforts will indeed result in a better planning document than might otherwise come out of the process. Thank you for your time and attention on this matter and I will be looking forward to future review of the draft RMP this summer. If you have any questions, please contact me in the Reno offers.

Alan D. Cox

Regional Manager -Environmental Affairs

ADC:ilm

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 61 (Alan D. Cox, Homestake Mining Company)

1-1) Our analysis of minerals was based on the best information available to the minerals staff at the time the draft RMP was prepared. There is no requirement in NEPA or BLM regulation to have equal levels of analysis for all resources. The draft Bishop RMP does emphasize recreational and wildlife resources over the traditionally-emphasized uses of mining and livestock grazing. However, in spite of this emphasis, 96% of the resource area remains open to locatable mineral mining. VRM-1 and -2 restrictions apply to 58% of the areas of high and moderate mineral potential in the Resource Area. These VRM classifications do not preclude mining, which is a temporary activity, but rather describe long-term goals for visual resources after reclamation of mining orgetics is completed.

- 61-2) The "specific information" you reference is part of the administrative record and is available for public inspection. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 61-3) The classification of some projects as "super" projects was done to indicate that BLM recognizes that, while most mining projects are small, a few are very large and can have serious impacts to the socioeconomic as well as non-mineral natural resources in the Resource Area. In the final RMP this classification has been eliminated.
- 61-4) The Bodie Hills CRM process was utilized to develop implementation measures for the land use decisions originating from the Bodie-Coleville Management Framework Plan (MFP). Many of those MFP decisions and those actions emanating from the CRM process remain valid. Upon completion of the RMP, the CRM process will be used as a means of implementing decisions and resolving site-specific issues.

Homestake's involvement has been a major factor contributing to the success of the Bodie Hills CRMP. Your participation is appreciated.

61-5) Thank you; your comment has been noted and documented. Impacts to minerals, mineral potential maps, and reasonable foreseeable scenarios have been rewritten and included in the final RMP. The final RMP may be protested to both the State Director and the Secretary of the Interior.

FLYING~M~RANCH

January 10, 1991

Michael A. Ferguson, Area Hanager Bishop Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management 787 Mo. Main, Suite P Bishop, Calif. 93514

- RE: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
- The overall tone and thrust of the RMP is to elistnate or severely restrict livestock grazing. The plan would severely reduce the libit of the severely reduced the libit of the li

General Policy page 25 (references are to FLPMA)

- NANAGEMENT WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF MULTIPLE USE. Section 102 (a) (7)
- The RIP does not follow this guideline. All of the proactive nanagement schenes in the RIP are directed towards wildlife and recreation. All of the restrictive management schenes are directed towards livestock and cineral development.

Wildlife management schemes include the DPC concept, increased AUN allocation, and acquisition of private ground.

- Why is there no DPC for livestock habitat?
- What data base is used to justify increased AUN's for
- Are the figures for DPC's and increased wildlife populations based on land acquisitions?.

11 PINE GROVE ROAD * YERINGTON, NEVADA 89447 * (702) 463-5024

42-4

62-6

62-7

- 8ccreation management scheepes include acquired private lands, changed dispersed recreation, and VRS tandards. VRH standards are supposed to be applied to natural landscapes. There are very few places in the Rodie Hills Hanagement Area that are not already altered by man (ie: roads, campgrounds, buildings, fences).
 - Why acquire private lands for recreation?
 What assurances can you provide that the enhanced dispersed recreation will not be in direct conflict with your wildlife zoals?
 - Livestock management schemes are either not included, or are restrictive in nature. They include elimination of grazing on allottents, decreased utilization of bitterbrush, decreased utilization within two miles of sage grouse leks, and decreased utilization on meadows and vetlands.
 - What data base are you using for the elimination of grazing on the allotments named in the RMP?

The restriction on bitterbrush calls for 60% total utilization with no more than 30% attributed to livestock.

- Now do you tell the difference between livestock and wildlife utilization?
 - If an allotment has a rotation system and the livestock get their 30% first, how are you going to limit the wildlife to 30%?
 - What data base do you use for the two mile restriction on sage grouse?
 - Unat management schemes will be used to increase livestock distribution so these other goals can be met?
 - PUBLIC LAGDS WILL BE MANAGED IN A MANNER THAT WILL PROVIDE FOOD AND HARITAT ZOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIHALS. Section 102 (a) (8)

While reviewing the plan it was very easy to see the planning and management schemes directed towards providing food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

- What are the usnagement schemes for providing food and habitat for livestock?

 PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE NAMAGED IN A MANNER WHICH RECOGNIZES THE NATION'S NEED FOR DOHESTIC SOURCES OF HINERALS, FOOD, TIMBER, AND FIBER FROM THE PUBLIC LANDS... Section 102 (a) (12)

While reviewing the RMP, management schemes were perceived which recognized the domestic sources of almerals and timber. (fuelwood), nowever, no gamagement schemes recognized the need for food and fiber. Hore proactive livestock management schemes and DPC's for livestock would be an excellent way to fulfill this policy statement.

- THE BUREAU WILL WEIGH LONG TERM BEWEFITS TO THE PUBLIC AGAINST SHORT TERM BENEFITS. Section 202 (c) (7)
- The Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, tiaber and fiber certainly qualifies as long term benefits. The RNP does not recognize this and even goes to the point of sacrificing jobs in communities, and removing private lands from local community economies.
- MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS WILL CONSIDER: ... b) RELATIVE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF HAMAGING INDIVIDUAL TRACTS.
 FISCAL ABILITY OF THE BUREAU TO REFECTIVELY HAMAGE LANDS AND INTEREST (INCLUDING EASEMENTS) IN THE LONG TEAH.

The most positive evidence of Bureau abilities is recognizing the usefulness of planning processes such as GRMP and stewardship programs. This RMP calls for increased funding needs in many respects of its implementation.

- What assurances can the Bureau provide for:
- a) cost effectiveness of the RIP?
 b) the Bureau's ability to implement the RHP?
 c) the long term availability of funding for the RMP?

Area Hanager's Guidelines page 26

(2)...livestock forage needs.

Flying M Ranch

 Can a positive guideline for livestock forage needs be put in this section for this Area Hanager (and future Area Hanagers)?

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62-9

62-10

62-11

Flying M Ranch

Jan. 10. 1991

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Programs/Processes of Particular Interest In The Planning Effort page 23

(The Computer Happing System (GIS) is to be appliated. This 42-12 system should give Bureau personnel more field time for positive management practices. All of the other programs/ processes should be described as management schemes and be dealt with on the activity (CRM) level. They should also be used proactively, not as further restrictions on management options.

> Alternative Definitions page 35

ALTERNATIVE 54: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

|This alternative is unacceptable, Like alternative #3, it 62-13 would require additional funding with no assurance of reasonable success. The wanagement schemes detailed are not proactive, but are restrictive. Their only thrust is to wildlife and recreation with very little room for creative management at any level. The "balance" gentioned in the definition can only be seen between this alternative and alternative #3. With this alternative. the Bureau would become an agency involved only in the management of people and wildlife.

ALTERNATIVE #3: NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT

(This alternative is unacceptable, Not only is additional funding 62-14 required, there are even less assurances of success than in the preferred alternative. This alternative is seared entirely toward wildlife and recreation with no attempt to follow the earlier mentioned General Policies (FLPMA). This alternative is poorly balanced because all of the management schemes are highly restrictive when dealing with commodity production.

ALTERNATIVE #2: CUSTODIAL HANAGEMENT

This alternative description is very misleading. The Bureau has 42-15 in place, restrictive management schemes for commodity production (ie: WSA's, stocking rates, season of use...) Funding at the time remains an unknown for any alternative. The CRMP system and others like it certainly can be described as proactive management.

Flying M Ranch

Jan. 10, 1991

ALTERNATIVE #1: NO ACTION/CONTINUATION OF PRESENT MANAGEMENT

With some wording changes, this alternative presents the best management 42-16 schemes for all concerned parties. Drop the words "No Action" from the title. This wording is in direct contrast to the CRMP process. I hope that the CRMP process is considered "action", and proactive. The next word change should be in the first sentence of the description. Replace "situation" with "management" so that it reads: This alternative is a continuation of the present management..." This change would more accurately describe what is going on.
This is also the only alternative which discusses logical progression. Logical progression coupled with management options such as the CRMP process, can and will get the Bureau to the multiple-use goal.

Area-Wide Summary of Decisions p. 36 & 37, Table 2-1

-Why are ACEC management decisions done at this level? 42-17 -How were boundaries of the Bodie Bowl determined? -The Bodie Bowl includes some Flying M Ranch deeded ground. Why weren't we notified of the decision process for the ACEC determination?

Bodie Hills Management Area and Granite Mountain Management Area, p. 62-69.

After reviewing these alternatives and rationales, some of the same concerns 42-18 appear. The word change discussed earlier applies in all cases to Alternative 1. Strike a balance between Alternatives 1 & 2 on both management areas due to the ability of all concerned parties to plan logical progression through CRMP planning efforts. Drop the "prohibit grazing" restriction on Larkin Lake. In an earlier discussion with a Bureau biologist, the concept of using livestock grazing to enhance wildlife habitat was discussed and agreed upon.

> -Would the "prohibit grazing" decision preclude livestock grazing for this purpose?

IMPACTS (WILDLIFE) p. 96-98, Table 2-2

This section of impact assumptions is very poorly done. The only listed 62-19 impacts to wildlife are mineral development and livestock grazing. Impacts which are never mentioned (this involves the ENTIRE Draft Plan) include hunting, poaching, and predation.

> -What are the impacts to the deer population due to hunting in BOTH California and Nevada? -What are the impacts to the antelope population due to hunting in

-What are the impacts to both deer and antelope due to predation? -What is the current Lahontan Cutthroat population in Bodie Creek?

	Flying H Ranch -6- January 10, 1991	Flying M Ranch -7- January 10, 1991
2-20	Livestock Grazing p. 143 This statement cites grazing problems on critical areas due to overutilization and trampling. -Bow do you measure livestock trampling objectively? "Bat proactive management schemes do you have to improve livestock	DPC's 1. "Meet DPC goals on 95 acres of riparian" -Shouldn't this goal be measured by percent (1) of stream miles instead of acres? The vegetation stubble measurements in this DPC do not match the stubb
	COMPARING THE RMP TO BODIE HOUNTAIN CHMP	neasurement agreed to in the CRMP group. 2. "Vegetative overhang within 12 inches"
2-2/	Management Themethe words "logical progression" should be used. This should always be the standard. DecisionsVRM, ACEC, Yearlong Protection	-not mentioned in CRMP!! 3. "A minimum of 70% of the Stream would be shaded by vegetation" -not mentioned in CRMP!!
2-22	It is still not clear how these management guidelines affect livestock practices. -Can any of the above-mentioned guidelines prevent the installation of	 "at least 6 inches of residual herbaceous plant height will remain the end of growing season or at the time of livestock turnoff, whichever is later."
	livestock structures (ie. fences, water, etc.)? -If so, why didn't the CRMF group deal with these designations? Utilization Standards "Bitterbrush utilization by livestock will not exceed 30% of annual growth"	-The CRMP group agreed to 4 inches of herbaceous stubble. 5. "Neet DPC goals on 470 acres of aspen groves" -This goal should be carefully checked to be sure that undue pressure inches under the content of any single allottent.
-23	-This standard has never been mentioned in the CPMP group. Why is it here??	6. "Heet DFC goals on wet neadows" -Shouldn't this goal have an acreage figure on it?
	"Manage sagebrush-bitterbrush vegetation within 2 siles of sage grouse leks to neet DPC goals. Livestock use will not exceed 40% on key grass species and 30% on bitterbrush." The CRMP identified specific leks and specific meadows for those leks. No	7. "Meet DPC goals on 26,915 acres of pinyon-juniper" -Will the goals be net without an entire new road network for access?
-24	sention was made of hitterbrush utilization for sage grouse leks, and also did not mention key grass species outside readows. The RRP decision would reduce by 33% the number of AUMs for livestock on the Bodie Mountain Allotment. This DPC covers 90% of the Bodie Mountain Allotment.	8. "Neet DPC goals on 25,250 acres of sagebrush-bitterbrush" -We would like to see the facts supporting the proposed reductions.
	-Why hasn't this DPC concern even been covered in the CRMP group?	

Flying M Ranch

62-31

62-32

62-33

12.34

January 10, 1991

Miscellaneous Comments on points that were never brought up in the CRMP.

 "Achieve and/or maintain a minimum of 60% ground cover on upland rangelands except for the following areas..."

-Is this realistic? -Where are we now?

2. "Stabilize and restore selected stream channels (named)..."

-Some of the named streams are also mentioned when discussing Wild & Scenic Rivers.
-Will Wild & Scenic River designation:

--inhibit management to stabilize?
--inhibit livestock grazing?
--inhibit the CRMP process?

"Encourage conversion from cattle to sheep on all grazing allotments..."
 -needs to be reworded in order to reduce anxieties.

 "Prohibit grazing on the Copper Mountain Allotment to reduce conflicts with wildlife."

-the concept of using livestock grazing to enhance wildlife habitat

was mentioned earlier.
-Does this decision preclude that possibility?

5. "Develop or revise AMPs as needed to meet DPC and stream improvement goals."

-This "support need" brings up the following concerns: --lack of flexibility: guidelines too narrow for CRMP to work.

-- management schenes started at the wrong level.

--losing touch with what is at allotment level.
--losing touch with how different allotments interact across

management boundaries.

I am disappointed with the conflicts between this RMP and the Bodie Mountain CRMP. This ranch has been an active, willing, and enthusiastic participant

I am disappointed with the conflicts between this RPP and the Botic Mountain CRMP. This reach has been an active, willing, and enthusiastic participant for two years. This RPP gives the impression of limiting the amangement alternatives for professional land managers at the allotment level. Alternative 4 of the RPP wores the CRMP back to Square One. Revise the RPP to give guidelings to the CRMP, NOT a long list of restrictions.

Thank you for your time. I will be looking forward to your replies.

Sincerely, Ernel & Perce Ernest B. Paine Nanager

Flying M Ranch

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 62 (Ernest B. Paine, Flying M Ranch)

- 62-1) The thrust of the RMP is not to severely restrict or eliminate livestock grazing nor to reduce allotted AUMs. Certain changes in where and how livestock graze certain areas, on some allotments, may be necessary to help achieve specific objectives. Reduction of AUMs is <u>not</u> seen as the preferred or most effective means.
- 62-2) "Livestock habitat" (your phrase) was not provided by the Bishop Resource Area range conservationist staff since other vegetation conditions are described in the grazing EISs which address livestock forage management. The grazing EISs are incorporated in the RMP by reference.

There is no specific reference or decision in the RMP to increase AUMs for wildlife.

The acres of specific desired plant community, by alternative, refer to BLM administered land, only, and do not necessitate private land acquisition to meet the acreage goal. Any local increase to wildlife populations would result from decision implementation or current BLM administered land without acquisition of patented (private) land.

62-3) VRM standards are based on a combination of the area's scenic quality, viewshed distances, and the visitor's sensitivity to changes in the landscape. Although there are some contrasts along major routes, the majority of the landscape appears natural and unaltered. The combination of these factors, primarily the viewer's sensitivity to changes in landscape, contributed to the proposed VRM standards in the Bodle Hills.

Private lands are proposed for acquisition to consolidate public land management and improve the availability of recreation opportunities. Acquisition of private lands would enhance recreation management in the long term.

We believe that close coordination with the Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management group and a regular monitoring program will deter potential impacts to wildlife habitat. Any recreation program development for the Bodie Hills would also undergo review by our staff biologist to assure that wildlife goals are not compromised.

62-4) Livestock management schemes are not included in the broadbased management decisions required in the RMP. Those types of determinations would be made at the activity plan level, as in the Bodie Hills CRMP process.

Allotments proposed for elimination were unallocated areas that were to be established as allotments based on Management Framework Plan decisions. The decision to eliminate them was based upon the fact that no livestock operators applied for the permits and a reconsideration on the soundness of those previous decisions.

62-5) Determination of forage utilization differences between livestock and wildlife is possible by examining use levels at three periods: prior to livestock turn-out, during livestock use periods and after livestock are removed. These data would be compared to a fully enclosed area (i.e., utilization cage) to determine the full season plant growth that is ungrazed. A principal concern would be locating the cage and the utilization transect in a key area commonly used by both types of animals. Other data (i.e., wildlife and livestock sightings, tracks, feat matter) would also be needed. Obviously closer attention would be needed in the common use areas than in areas more likely to receive use by only one type of animal.

The intent of the decision is to ensure an adequate amount of forage for deer after cattle are removed. Grazing systems should be designed carefully to avoid over-utilization of key forage species important to both livestock and wildlife. Improving livestock distribution is a key factor in areas where utilization is known or anticipated to be excessive.

62-6) Numerous surveys of sage grouse habitat use have established the majority of nesting occurs within 2 miles of strutting grounds. The same surveys indicate a preference by female sage grouse to nest closer to a strutting ground when good nesting vegetative cover is available. The BLM accepts these conditions as basic quidelines in management of sage grouse habitat.

underutilized, suitable forage areas is most often the best means of improving livestock distribution. Other effective measures include moving cattle in small groups into different areas during turmout, use of cowboys to herd animals to other areas, location of salt blocks and location of new fences (if needed).

Development of additional livestock water sources in

- 62-7, 8) The overall scheme is to properly manage the vegetation resource for food and habitat requirements of livestock and wildlife. Each allotment has its unique characteristics which are assessed at the activity plan level: AMPs, HMPs or CRMPs, in which specific management schemes are developed. The DPC descriptions provide objectives for properly managing the vegetation resource which provides food, fiber and habitat as directed by FLPMA.
- 62-9) Under this plan, management will continue on a multiple use and sustained yield basis. The local tourism-based economy should benefit from the recreation and resource management actions of the plan. We do not foresee any major cutbacks in the production of minerals, food, timber, or fiber in the long run. Local economies will benefit from the disposal of public lands for community expansion and agricultural use.
- 62-10) We anticipate that there will be adequate funds available to implement the plan. The timeframe of implementation will depend on the size of our budget; less money would mean that it will take longer to implement the plan, and more money would mean earlier implementation.

- 62-11) We believe this Area Manager's Guideline (#5 in the final RMP) sets positive and equitable guidelines for livestock forage needs. Livestock forage needs would receive neither greater nor less consideration than the other resources mentioned.
- 62-12) Thank you for your comment.
- 62-13) The plan outlines a set of resource condition goals that will be used to consider all proposals for use of the public lands. This approach allows considerable flexibility in determining how these goals will be met. Many actions can be authorized with adequate mitication to meet the resource condition goals.
- 62-14) Alternative 3 was not selected as the preferred alternative in the plan because alternative 4 offers a more balanced approach to resource manacement.
- 62-15) The alternative description you are referring to is only a general statement that describes the overall management theme and highlights the differences between the alternatives. Valid existing management, general policy, and standard operating procedures would be the same under all the alternatives. We agree that much of our present management is proactive.
- 62-16) See response 62-15. Regulations require that a "No Action" alternative be included in the EIS. In this case "no action" simply means 'no major changes in the present management direction," or, as stated in the EIS, 'continuation of present management'.
- 62-17) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that we give priority to the designation and protection of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) through the development of land use plans. The RMP provides general management direction for ACECs. More detailed activity plans will be developed for all ACECs when the RMP is finished. The boundaries of the Bodie Bowl were defined in the Cooperative Management Agreement between BLM and Bodie State Park, based on visual and cultural resources. The Bodie Bowl ACEC boundary was not changed from the Bodie Bowl

Cooperative Management Agreement boundary because the visual and cultural resources have not changed.

ACEC designations are made through the land use planning process. You were notified of this process through numerous mailings and public meetings. The ACEC designation does not directly affect private lands. We encourage you to stay involved with the management of BLM land and to help us develop activity plans that will recognize your needs as an adjacent private landowner.

- 62-18) Larkin Lake allotment will be reestablished. Livestock grazing will only be authorized, at the Bureau's discretion, to maintain waterfowl habitat.
- 62-19) The impact on deer and pronghorn populations due to hunting is a question appropriate for the California Department of Fish and Game and Nevada Department of Wildlife. These game species are hunted under a quota by herd. The quota system is established to avoid an impact to the population, recognizing that some localized groups may be hunted more heavily than others.

The effect of predation on deer and pronghorn populations is unknown. Predation does occur on these and other species such as black-tail hare, marmot, pika, and cottontail rabbit.

The most recent information on Lahontan cutthroat trout in Bodie Creek indicates less than 10 fish in the California reach of the stream.

62-20) The effects of livestock trampling on displaced soil along streambanks can be measured. This effect, known as chiseling, can be assessed against score card ratings for overall severity. For wet meadow areas, quadrants can be established to determine the number of hoof prints, the size of bare ground areas, and the percentage of bare ground in the total plot area. Photo documentation and visual observation of disturbance to the soil surface and vegetation can also be valid assessment means.

See response 62-6 regarding livestock distribution.

- 62-21) Thank you for your comment.
- 62-22) The decisions are not expected to prohibit range improvements. They may require mitigation to satisfy VRM, ACECs, or Yearlong Protection decisions. Mitigation could include paint, size, location, design, time of construction, etc.
- 62-23) The 30% use level on bitterbrush will apply to deer migration corridors and winter ranges. This should not be a problem on the Bodie Mountain allotment.

Mandated timeframes for preparing the RMP did not allow sufficient time to coordinate all decisions with the CRMP decisions.

- 62-24) Decisions regarding vegetation condition within 2 miles of sage grouse leks have been changed in the final plan.
- 62-25) Using percent of stream miles is another measure for a riparian desired plant community goal. Our use of acres is based on an average width of riparian vegetation along streams in the Bodie Hills Management Area.
- 62-26) Mandated time frames for RMP preparation were not synchronous with CRMP actions. Your quotes numbered 2 and 3 remain the same in the final plan. Number 4: changed to 4-6 inches

- 62-27) We appreciate your concern for the manner in which the desired plant community aspen acreage goal (p. 65, draft RMP) would be accomplished. Coordinated resource management is intended to fairly distribute the method for meeting the goal on grazing allotments.
- 62-28) An acreage figure for wet meadow is provided in the final document.
- 62-29) No new road miles are planned as a means to achieve the pinyon-juniper DPC goal.
- 62-30) We do not understand the comment. If you are referring to "proposed reductions" of livestock, any stocking rate adjustments will be based on monitoring data collected to evaluate how well the objectives are being met.
- 62-31) This decision has been dropped for all management areas in the final.
- for 323. The RMP has identified various creeks as eligible to be studied for potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. Two years after the RMP is finalized, studies will begin to identify potential resource conflicts and whether benefits of designation or nondesignation would outweight the costs. Your questions would be addressed in the upcoming study. In the meantime, the values which contributed to the eligibility determination would be protected. Valid existing rights would also be recognized. Page 257 of the draft RMP identifies the degree to which livestock grazing is allowed under different river classifications. We also believe that the CRMP would continue in its present role and be closely involved in the upcoming studies.
- 62-33) The decision to encourage conversion from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP.

- 62-34) In this particular allotment, it is not clear how livestock (sheep) could be used to improve the quality of wildlife habitat. The final plan decision for this allotment is to eliminate grazing if the current permittee transfers or relinquishes his grazing privileges.
- 62-35) The decision to develop or revise allotment management plans in the Bodie Hills Management Area addresses the need to bring the present coordinated resource plan actions into line with RMP decisions. The Bodie Mountain Coordinated Resource Plan would follow the BMP decisions.

TATEDWES

Ranch and Farm Management, Inc.

lanuary 14, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

InterWest Ranch and Farm Management, Inc., consultant to and representative of the Flying M Ranch, hereby responds to the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS), prepared by the BLM for the Bishop Resource Area.

For many years the Bureau of Land Management and the Flying M Ranch have worked together with common goals to improve what is known as the Bodie fills! Management Area. The Flying M has respected the importance of the area for multiple use purposes, including livestack regging, mining, regressional activities, and widthing habita.

In 1984-95, the Bureau of Land Management requested the cooperation and assistance of the Flying & Ranch to prepare a Coordinated Resource Management Flam (GMDP) for the Bods Illis Resource Area. We veloced the opportunity of developing a long the Bods of the Coordinated Resource Carea. We will see that the propertunity of developing a long the Resource Cancella. In the Resource Cancella. In the Resource Cancella. In CRC1 of Corpos Giv, Revield. It is well known that RC1 is respected for their technical espectries in the areas of range and resource management. Technical RC1 of the RC2 of

While working to complete the CRMP, it was in March, 1990. that we received notice from the BLM, that an RMP/EIS for the Bode Hills were to be developed and that our input was requested to respond to the issues of 1) land ownership and use substitutions, 20 wildlife and sensitive plants, 3] revention, 4? minerals and 3) described the strength of th

On or before the deadline of January 17. 1991, you will receive from RCI their comprehensive evaluation of the BLM prepared histop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This evaluation represents the interests and concerns of the Flying M Ranch and InterWest, Inc., with regard to the content of the material in the RMP/ELS decument.

P.O. Box 487 e Pendleton, Oregon 97801 e 503 276-4246

January 14, 1991 Mr. Michael Ferguson Page 2

Mr. Forguson. we wish to express our disappointment with the BLM in their apparent disregard of information (fruitable dy the Flying M and RCI uring the times we have a worked to gether in developing the GMP and more recently the BMP/EIS. In 45-45

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We look forward to your response to the concerns presented by RCl and ultimately the development of the RMP/EIS which will meet goals for the common good.

Sincerely

Thomas D. Price

. TDP/js

cc: Mr. Edward L. Hastey Mr. Barron Hilton

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 63 (Thomas D. Price, InterWest)

63-1) The BLM acknowledges and appreciates the efforts and open attitude of the Flying M Ranch and RCI towards the Bodie Mountain CRMP. The BLM is always looking at opportunities to improve areas with the concept of multiple use, and does not believe the proposed RMP/EIS decisions to be a general attack on livestock grazing. It is not the intent of the BLM to change the use of the Bodie Hills at the expense of commodity production but to manage the use so that livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreational values will improve. The Bodie Mountain CRMP is a fine example of multiple use management and will continue in the Bodie Hills.

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64-1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 64 (Philip Baxter)

- 64-1) A withdrawal corridor was identified along the Pat Keyes trail from the Owens Valley trailhead to the boundary of the proposed Southern Irnyo Wilderness to protect and secure the integrity of the trail's recreation values. Outside the corridor and the proposed wilderness, mineral claim entry and development would still be permitted. 96% of the resource area remains open to mineral claim entry and development.
- 64-2) The State of California, Department of Fish and Game is responsible for managing wildlife populations, whereas BLM is responsible for managing the wildlife habitat on public lands. Close cooperation between BLM and the Department of Fish and Game is required to coordinate wildlife and habitat management. However, this does not mean that the public comments are any less important. Citizen input is an integral part of the planning process and we encourage your continued involvement.
- 64-3) Birch Creek was not included in the proposed Crater Mountain ACEC. The VRM class for Birch Creek has not changed from the present management alternative; it is still Class III.
- 34-4) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

HENWOOD ASSOCIATES, INC.

2555 THIRD STREET, SUITE 110 SACRAMENTO, CA 95618 (916) 447-3497

January 17, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514-2498

Re: Comments on Proposed Management Plan

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I have some very specific comments relating to a limited element of your proposed plan. I believe your inclusion of a portion of Green Creek as a study candidate for Wild and Scenic designation is not warranted for the following reasons:

- The section of Green Creek you are interested in is subject to a FERC power withdrawal and a Bureau of Land Management right-of-way for hydroelectric purposes;
 Your listing of two endangered species (Wolverin and Fox) as associated with
 - Creen Creek is unsupported. Reported sightings of these species are years old and not in the immediate vicinity of Green Creek;

 The trout fishery resident in the designated reach of Green Creek is merely typical
- The trout fishery resident in the designated reach of Green Creek is merely typics of the high gradient portions of similar creeks and does not represent any special resource.

I believe these considerations argue that this particular stream segment does not warrant further study.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's plans.

Sincercly, yvmne mukoruan...

M11\91011701

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 65 (Henwood Associates, Inc.)

65-1) The criteria for determination of river segments as eligible for wild and scenic river study are that it be free-flowing and that it contain outstandingly remarkable values. Green Creek met these criteria. The FERC power withdrawal and the associated right-of-way are valid existing rights that will be maintained. This will be considered a potential resource conflict that may affect any future designation of the creek.

No regular surveys have been done at this time to determine the population or distribution of the wolverine and Sierra Nevada red fox; however, both have been observed in the area in the last 3 years. Since both are federal candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered, we still are required to manage their habitats to ensure future activities do not contribute to their listing.

The application of "outstandingly remarkable" values not only includes unique or special resources, but also resources that are illustrative or good representations of area or regional ecosystems. The trout population at Green Creek is a good example or representation of trout species in the eastern Sierra/Great Basin area.

Mr. Micheal Ferguson Area Menager Bursau of Land Menagement 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Biehop, CA 93514 January 17, 1991

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

This letter is in response to your request for written comments on the current draft of the Bishop RHP. First off I would like to command you and your staff for the professional way they conducted tiansselves at the town mastings. I found the meetings very informative and the BLM personnel were always courteous and thorough when answering my questions.

I am employed as a guelocist for a U.S. based mining company. We currently heve only one exploration program which like within the contines of the Bishop Resource Area. I can not only concerned with the effects that the current RMP/RIS my have on our effects on this project, but also on future exploration in the area. I also realist that steps must be taken to provide for the maximum benefit realists that steps must be taken to provide for the maximum benefit will be also the provided for the maximum benefit of the realists that the bishop wildlife, grazing, atc., of the resources within the Bishop to the provided the provided that the bishop to the provided that the bishop the provided that the bishop the provided that the bishop that the provided that the bishop that the provided that the bishop that the provided that the prov

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Upon reviewing the four alternatives presented, it is my feeling that Alternatives 3 and 4 impose new, unnecessary restrictions on the mining community. It eppears, at least in part, that these restrictions are a result of VMV classifications. These restrictions are a result of VMV classifications. These statements of the control of the community of the control of the current management is doing a cond job balancing the needs of the current management is doing a cond job balancing the needs of the part of the control of the c

It is my hope, and yours to I beliave, that the Final Plan and EIS will provide a suitable compromise that will allow for the controlled management and development of both the environmental and sconomic resources.

Barney E. Naeo

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 66 (Barney Mason)

66-1) The VRM policy has been expanded and clarified to incorporate some flexibility for temporary projects and projects outside key observation points. Please see Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures, of the final RMP.

Your support for Alternative 1 has been noted and incorporated into our analysis of public comments for the final RMP,

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

January 15, 1991

This letter is in reference to the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft of September, 1990.

I am concerned that the Plan does not address two topics thoroughly enough: Wilderness Study Areas, and power line corridors.

67-1

The BLM 1987 EIS which recommended 27,420 acres for wilderness protection had studied ten times that area. These "left out" areas should be identified in the Plan and reconsidered, before their wilderness character is destroyed by mining, ORV use, or other destructive activities.

67-2

BLM should certainly study the power line corridors independently of the utility companies which would use them. The studies should be comprehensive. The proposed corridor which ends where Inyo National Forest meets the BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area should specify the complete planned route. In fact, considering the sensitivity of this area, BLM should so a full EIS for any proposed transmission line corridor in this specific area.

Sincerely,

Ran Smith

Ron Smith Route 1, Box 59-A Bishop, CA 93514

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 67 (Ron Smith)

- 67-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 67-2) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).



HAND DELIVERED

January 17, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management

787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Area Manager:

The Invo-Mono Coounty Farm Bureau has been reviewing the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement since its publication last year. The officers and directors have recieved many comments regarding this document.

We had originally planned to discuss, in written form, the merits and problems associated with the various plans on a point by point basis. It turned out that such a paper would be long and laborius and would actually not describe our position well.

The Invo-Mono Farm Bureau rejects the philosophies associated with Alternatives 3 and 4. Both alternatives tend to remove productive resources from the economic base of Inyo and Mono Counties. This is suggested under the guise of environmental concern, however, we feel these suggested alternatives only tend to sacrafice private enterprise for additional unproductive governmental influence.

There is very little private enterprise remaining in the Eastern Sierra. Our economy here shows a trend to increased governmental activity composed of "transfer payments" which do not produce any real goods or services to the area.

The agricultural sector of the economy is a significant and important factor to the Eastern Sierra. Its activities are important to the well being and tax base of both counties.

All rural counties are suffering budgetary restrictions and fiscal problems. Further erosion of their economic base as would accelerate under Alternatives 3 and 4 would hurt Inyo and Mono Counties in the long term.

We suggest instead that the Bureau of Land Management review the historical material and recognize that Federal lands are actually a Split Estate between the Federal Government and private

activities which include agriculture, timber, and mining. many activities proposed in Alternatives 3 and 4 would qualify as "takines" from those private activities.

The Inyo-Mono County Farm Bureau supports Alternative 1 with a trend to less restrictive custodial management.

Sincerely.

Martin C. Andrews, President

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan

Dear Sir:

Although the Bishop Resource Management Plan is fairly good by ELW standards, I would like to make some comments which would injerowe the plan so that it would better conserve and protect the principle of the plan of the transfer of the plan of the profession of the profession of the profession that the profession of the profession that the profession that the profession of the profession that the profession of the profess

- #11derness: The existing Wilderness Study Areas need to be shown on all the management maps, and in each case an acknowledgment made that these are to be managed for non-impairment according to the IMP regulations until Congress makes its decision. Repecially, destructive ORV activities in these areas need to be controlled. Also, more of these WASs contain Vulderness character, and should be recommended for Wilderness. The EAR'S recommendation that less than IOV of these areas either Symmen Creek or Independence Creek (they are sublated are unique habitats not presently in the Wilderness system and should be
- (9-2) Mining: Mining is a totally destructive use of the land involved, unless very good reclamation is required, and even then the scars remain for many years. Mining also leads to many off site lapacts, such as more roads which encourages more ONV abuse, construction of power lines, development and destruction of springs and other water sources, and degradation of scenic values from wherever the mine can be seen.

 specially in the Southern Impo Mountains, which is subject to rampant specialtive mining, such as Keynot, and around Mono Lake. Withdrawal of less than one half of one percent of public land from mining is clearly inadequate to protect the other public resources.
- Grazing: The preferred alternative does not adequately address grazing less. I support the idea that no new grazing altoreants should be established. However, in addition, all grazing should be eliminated in the state of the dust in the "average", are less than wood. Any other policy into allow under and unnecessary degradation of the public's resources. A lot of the dust in the Valley comes not from overs take, but from overgrand of the state of the state

In your letter of Oec. 21, you say that some feel that the preferred atternative untailty favors wildlife over livestock. This is a really dusb statement. In the first place, no.on has a "tight" to degrade our public land for any reason whether. In the second place, the public interest demands that wildlife and vegetation be protected, not cover on the second place, the public interest demands that wildlife and vegetation be protected, not cover on the second place, the public interest demands that wildlife and vegetation be protected, not cover on the second place of the public of t

- Land acquisition/sales: The acquisitions proposed in Alt.3 are preferable, except that for land proposed to be soid, a source of water for its development must be clearly identified. Since the underground aquifers are aiready fully committed or overdisafted, and surface sources already committed, the only source of water for development of additional land void sees to be from reductions in the amount the City of the table, or from an offenting reduction in use somewhere cite in the committed of the control of t
- As an aside, the argument by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors that specious. In the first place, probably some of the land to be acquired is already public land, such as States chool sections or resemble the acquired to the section of the sec
- | taxes lost on this land. The amount will be very small. On a related
 49-6 | Issue, the 1872 mining law should be administered as vritten. Occupancy
 trespass should not be tolerated, and all mining claims should be
 validated.
- Wild and Scenic rivers: The ten streams found eligible for this status 54-7 should be designated. These riparian areas are the heart of the value ecosystem, as are riparian areas in all desert climates. Private land along these streams incostly City of Li land) should be acquired to so it can also be amanged to protect the streams, not maximize water export to Los Ampeles or grazing for issesses.
- 0ff Road Wehicles: Areas with rare plants or critical wildlife babitat
 69-8 bould be completely closed to wehicle use. It should also be said
 clear that WSA's are off limits to wehicles fees above). Designation
 and restriction of wehicles to existing roads and trails is gai adequate
 protection without a much larger ranger presence. Ways in the Alabama
 Hilis, in particular, are growing like a cancer, and this should be
 stopped before there is nothing but dost and ruts to see. It should
 also be made clear that the goal is dispersed whiche uses, not intensive

Comments on specific areas:

- 80dis: WMx regulations are not adequate to protect the State Park,
 9-since they do not take into account there lapacts such as noise, dust,
 and vibrations tree blasting. The entire Bodie area, in addition to the
 development. Bodie is a special, very critical area, and recreation,
 viidilie, and scenic values should be favored over mining here. There
 is no indication that you'd is a critical sizeral, or that sincers
 in the state of the state of the State of California,
 whe stat should be sensitive to the needs of the State of California,
 acquessed by the State Legislature, and protect Bodie by its actions,
 not undersine the interests of the State and allow impacts to occur to
 to the operations the State park provides its validations highly to
 to the operations the State park provides its validations highly in vital
- Powerline corridor: There is no demonstrated need for an east-west to powerline corridor in the Bishop Ra. Soldier Canynn is an especially poor choice. This area is nearly pristine a beautiful, open area with very little human inpact, but accessible from a good highway. This experience should not be spolled by an agiy powerline. At the very least, the cambalture impacts of this corridor, both inside and outside plan, which should consider alternatives both inside and outside the plan, which should consider alternatives both inside and outside the RA to arrive at the best route.
- Unnecessary and undue: I am not too happy with this definition, but am to sure how to make it stronger. I suppose that the answer is that if the impact of an activity is unacceptable, then it should not be allowed in the first place.

Overall, I support strengthening protection of our land and its natural resources, as proposed, at a minimum, in Alt. 3. I oppose any weakening of any of the proposals to allow for more destruction of the land and natural values, for any reason.

Sincerely,

Stan Houry

P. O. Orawer W Independence, Ca 93526

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 69 (Stan Haye)

- 69-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. Also please see the OHV general response (p.5-8).
- 69-2) Please see general response for minerals (p.5-13). Sensitive areas with high resource values (i.e. cultural, wildlife, riparian or recreation) have been proposed for mineral withdrawal where mineral development potential is likely to degrade these values. There are 2,000 acres of existing mineral withdrawals, and another 3,100 proposed in the final RMP. An additional 28,000 acres may be withdrawn if Congress approves the Southern Inyo Wilderness.
- 69-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11),

It is not the policy of the BLM to allow livestock grazing to degrade the public resources. See response 39-3.

There are no studies available to indicate that dust generated from livestock grazing on BLM allotments is a significant contributing factor to Owens Valley air quality or lack of it.

Many RMP decisions will be implemented by activity plans such as AMPs or Habitat Management Plans. These activity plans always include monitoring. During the last ten years, 45 out of the 65 allotments have been monitored. The remaining 20 allotments have not been monitored due to limited (hestock use.

- 69-4,5) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 69-6) See general response for minerals.

Occupancy trespass on mining claims is not tolerated by the BLM. With the large areas covered by the Bishop Resource Area, protecting against all trespass all the time is difficult. Moreover, in some cases, there may be legal questions about legitimate mining operations versus trespass. These commonly will be resolved only in court.

- 69-7) The suitability or nonsuitability of the eligible creeks as well as potential acquisitions will be addressed in the upcoming studies outside the scope of this RMP.
- 69-8) Please see general response to comments on OHV management.
- 69-9) Please see general Bodie response (p.5-5), which addresses your concerns.
- 69-10) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 69-11) See general response for minerals, item 6.





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES

WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER EAST 360 3RD AVENUE SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202-1413



70-2

70-3

January 15, 1991

Memorandum

To: Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager—Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Resource Area, Bishop, California

From: Chief--Branch of Engineering and Economic Analysis

Subject: Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The Bureau of Mines reviews MSP/EISs for the appropriateness of their assessment and planned sunsquestert of sinceral resources. Men forescendic excession sinceral resources are involved, as in the Bishop Resource Area, our extension of the sinceral set of the security of the sinceral set of the security of the security of the presentation of sinceral resource in the area. The nature of the following comments are of two types—those associated with the presentation of sinceral resource information and those associated with the presentation of sinceral resources. The concerns as servely an effort to improve the final EIS.

The document contains a good quantitative estimate of impacts to mineral resources based on given assengement niteratives. It gives the readers a feel for the inequity of the preferred alternative to-savis favored resources (i.e., visual resources) at the expense of unfavored resources, particularly alternia. The document's shortcomings are in its qualitative assessment of determine the significance of the St loss to locatable mineral deposits and the 2St loss to salable sineral deposits between Alternatives 1 and 4 (pp. 8 and 9) in terms of which mineral deposits are being impacted, what other resources are involved, and what are their comparative values. This detail is a support of the comparative values of the support of the sup

The most effective and basic addition to the RMP/RIS would be mineral potential maps for locatable and leasable minerals. The Lands and Minerals maps included with the document provide limited information. They serve only to show where mineral location is legally allowable and not where mineral deposits, and thus mineral exploration and development, are most likely to occur. These maps emphasize quantity, not quality, of land available to mineral entry. Using Alternative 3 in an extreme scenario, it would be completely meaningless to show 718,000 acres of land open to mineral location if the only areas with any real potential for mineral development are within the 2,000 acres currently withdrawn and the 30,000 acres proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry. Since the RMP/EIS already contains maps showing visual resource management, various wildlife habitats, streams, surface management, etc., equitable treatment of all resources would require a similar map showing areas of high and moderate mineral potential. By comparing the different maps, the reviewers could identify those areas with significant resource conflicts and, apparently, where the nearly unilateral impacts against mineral exploration and development are occurring.

Areas where exploration and development are likely to occur are identified on page 136 of the BPR/HIS. Please note that the Colville Paymagement Area was caltich. Bapping areas of high and soderate sinceral potential around these areas of the second page 150 per second the second page 150 per second page 150 per second the second page 150 per s

Begarding your proposed management policies, we are concerned that sineral resources have not been treated as the rare, "unluble, and important resources that they are. The BMP/RIS indicates that only 1,200 of the Bishop Besource treats 15,000 acress would be disturbed under Alternative 1 (pp. 8 and 9). exploration and development is a rare occurrence. Under Alternative 4 only exploration and development is a rare occurrence. Under Alternative 4 only difference seems trivial. Resever, according to figures on page 199, the difference seems trivial. Resever, according to figures on page 199, the difference seems trivial. Resever, according to figures on page 199, the difference seems trivial. Resever, according to figures on page 199, the difference between Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 folis acress) represents the second of the s

70-1

"Numerous conflicts with other surface resources, such as wildlife habitat and visual resources, arise from the intense nature of land use. A decision needs to be made as to how these conflicts can be reduced including whether there are areas of high mineral production where future mineral development should be limited." (page 23)

"Identify specific lands where future mineral development should be limited." (nage 25)

All references to sineral resource senagement are in terms of withdrasal from entry or neutriciting development. No mention is sade of presoning mineral resource development. In this how BLM manages public lands "in a manner which recomizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals."

It agenum that the Rotie Bool is the center of most of this controversy. We recognize your oliesma between minintaining the visual metabetics of the area surrounding Rotie State Park or allowing full development of the Galactice Boolin deposit. Pastrictions within 500, fills to be bring to your attention a similar situation concerning the Oregon Trail National Interpretive Center at Figartaff Mill in the Baker Besource Area, Oregon. This also involved a conflict between the visual integrity of a cultural resource law of the Company of the C

we would like to assist your office during these final stages of the BSP/RIS are black there and other ideas can be discussed and used. Also, we would be after to assist with mineral development, acception for an RIS on the Bodie Book, Technical assistance and almorats related information is available from this office on request. Please contact Michael Dunn at FTS 139-2664. Themic you for this opportunity to comment.

for John R. Norberg

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 70 (John R. Norberg, U.S. Bureau of Mines)

- 70-1) The impacts to locatable minerals are more accurately defined in the final RMP; please refer to the general response for minerals (p.5-13). Specific mineral deposits were not addressed in this document, only the mineral commodity. Chapter 4, Impacts, explains the resources involved and their comparative value.
- 70-2) The analysis of impacts to minerals from other resources is in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.

We agree that mineral potential maps for locatable and leasable (geothermal) minerals are needed. These are supplied in the final RMP.

Alternative 3 was not chosen as the preferred alternative.

Maps showing acreages of high and moderate mineral potential were overlain with VRM, year-long/seasonal protection, and withdrawals to determine conflicts; see final RMP.

Mineral potential data have been incorporated into our GIS system; a map is included in Chapter 3. The statistics included in the impact analysis section of the final RMP were generated using GIS as per your suggestion. The Coleville management area has been included. 70-3) BLM believes that mineral development on the public lands is a valid use (as well as being allowed by law). Throughout the resource area and the eastern Sierra, recreation and tourism are recognized as the most important segment of the economy. Therefore, while allowing mining under the law and BLM regulations, we are not involved in promoting it.

The cultural values within the Bodie Bowl are of national importance; please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5). The RMP gives general management direction for that area. Any final decision to allow or deny mineral development within the Bowl will be dependent upon the environmental document following the receipt of a Plan of Operations.

We have sent for a copy of the EIS from Oregon.

January 15, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Bishop Resource Management Plan and EIS

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

71-1

Please consider the following concerns and comments in preparing the Final Management Plan and EIS for the Bishop Resource Area.

Although I am very pleased with the overall environmental protection being planned in the Management Plan, I am greatly alarmed at the selection of an alternative for a utility corridor. In view of the fact that a third of the power for Los Angeles is already traveling through our area (in addition to providing the majority of their water), it would

sees to se that Owens Valley is already giving it's share toward accommodating the needs of the los Angeles area. Areas of relatively undisturbed wilderness are one of our few remaining assets. In any opinion, Appendix 8 does not clearly demonstrate a need for a value of the control of the areas would not be feasible due to public outery relating to environmental concerns. The White and Invo Wountain are as sensitive if not sore sensitive than other potential utility corridor are sensitive than other potential utility corridor are sensitive than other potential utility corridor are did be solved in technical ways not at the expense of our environment.

As population increases in the West, undeveloped areas are becoming very scarce. We cannot afford any sore loss of habitat for sensitive plant and animal species. It is no longer environmentally feasible to allow the continued destruction of wilderness areas such as Soldier Canyon. We can no longer evive costs in terms of economics but we must also consider environmental costs. By the same token, we can no longer view value in terms of human use but also such

71-1 cont. consider the long term environmental consequences of any human action on the flora and fauna. On Page 90 it is stated that "Although impacts to semi-prisitive recreation in the area would be severe, the current level of use is low." This statement indicates a complete disregard and lack of understanding for environmental protection and implies that the only "value" is considered in human terms. In my opinion, the environmental costs are too high for the present costs are too high for the present contracts.

Please reconsider the impacts of providing a utility corridor in the White or Inyo Mountains and abandon the designating of any east/west corridors in this area.

· you have any questions or need clarification on any of my comments, please feel free to call me (878-2004).

Sincerely yours,

Kash, Barnes

Kathy Barnes P.O. Box 323

Independence, CA 93526

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 71 (Kathy Barnes)

71-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

The draft RMP's Appendix 8 states that large blocks of federal lands along both sides of the Nevada-California border, from the northernmost part of the Inyo National Forest southeasterly to the Las Vegas area, cannot be considered for transmission line corridor designation because existing land use designations and allocations (like Wilderness Study Areas, National Monuments, military reservations, etc.) preclude transmission line corridor uses of those lands. See also the need analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.

Concerning the "destruction of wilderness areas such as Soldier Canyon", see response 39-2.

Environmental impacts and costs will be more specifically addressed and evaluated during an environmental analysis conducted in response to a proposed project. This study estimates the impact of corridor designation and transmission line use to the resources and resource values in each of the areas considered. See also the Impacts section of the general response for the corridor study.

Co 30x 872 georgation a 95634 Jan. 14, 1991

Michael Ferguson bishop Resource ann Mys. 787 N Main St. Sut 1. Bishop, Ca. 93514

Dear Mr Fergram,

I support attendine 3 of The deap Res. Have just Plan for The eastern Suin BLM Land.

My specific concern is The effects of OHO ass or public lards. I have studied The effects (noise, imports to soil, imports to will life (or my clase the Pacific

der herd), duis on book services sent as fin, pulcal of law enforcement, transpurs, mount protection

and conflicts with other ceses. glinder BLA can enforce opolice the OHV activity Them

10 HV's Should not be allowed in The area. additionally I support The 10 review for willy seeme additionally I be frequently find y realize the importance of his

benjation. Though you for letty one comment Screenly,

Kies andusox-House

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 72 (Kris Anderson-Moore)

Please see the general response to comments on OHV management.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER • SIERRA CLUB

ALAMEDA - CONTRA COSTA - MARIN - SAN FRANCISCO 6014 COLLEGE AVENUE, OAKLAND, CA 94618 BOOKSTORE; (415) 658-7470 OFFICE: (415) 653-6127 CONSERVATION: (415) 653-6127

January 15, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Manager Bishop Resource Area, BLM BISHOP RESOURCE NAMAGEMENT FLAN 787 North Main St., Suite P Bishop, GA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

73-1

73-2

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club has received a copy of the Bureau of Inand Managasent, Bishop Resource Arva, droft resource managasent plan, which was reviewed by the Chapter's Vildermass subcommittee. The committee base also received your Dec. 21, 1990 letter about the BMF addressed to 'Dear Citizen'. The connern of the Bay Chapter's 46,000 amedies with vise managasent of our public lands and side chapter's 46,000 amedies with vise managasent of our public lands and side september. As it relates to principal aspects of the Bishop draft RMF, in the comments being the comments believe the comments between

WILDEMESS PROTOGALS: One of the chief netural geographic features and consequently, valuable public resources of the Sishop Resource Area is tix large expanses of undeveloped, relatively undatured wildlands. Due to the rapid proliferation of amande developeness classwhere in our country, particularly as observed in our own unbas area, it is increasingly apparent California from a constant of the control of the vildeness proposals in your draft unsettification that wildeness quality and the public need for additional vildeness designation. In your final document, we urge you to relate additional value are control of the control o

GMAZING: public lands grazing is treated in a cursory and incomplete way in this document; there is no comprehensive analysis of the trage condition and overall grazing impacts. By law, the bureau of land Hanagasent must provide such comprehensive study to at in making decisions continued to the provide such comprehensive study to at it making decision of the matter of the resource area are marginal at best and the impacts caused the next continued in most of the resource area are marginal at best and the impacts caused the armid in the content servery is illustrated to a small number of permittees on allotsents. Reference in the Dec. 12 letter to grazing decision in other documents in this context servery its limited to grazing decision in other documents in this context servery limits of the provided of the context servery in the context servery and the context servery in the context servery and the context se

POWERLINE CORRIDOR: Our review of the document reveals, surprisingly, no description of the need of any new powerline corridor. The utility 73-3 company's request for a corridor is apparently taken as sufficient expression of need. Obviously, this failure to demonstrate need is a major defect, and the final document must either drop the request or include studies by impartial agents as to such alleged need. Soliciting input on this quastion from citizens' environmental groups would be useful. Clearly, to put in additional power lines with minimum impact requires any new line to be constructed in the present corridor(s). Any former powerlines rendered obsolete and no longer used after construction of a new line should be removed; such removal must be a requirement and included in the utility company's costs. Even BLM has conceded there are major problems with coordination with other relevant egencies for such powerline construction. No corridor can legitimately be granted under these conditions. Even granted that corridor designation does not automatically imply or lead to powerline construction (which requires a separate EA process) the fact remains that corridor designation in itself is a serious precedent setting action causing great concern.

HIMERALS: The role of mineral development in visual impacts and in water pollution has not been adequately addressed in a comprehensive way. Mineral withdrawals noted appear insignificant. Further mineral withdrawals should be recommended and put in place, at the least for the areas we recommend for wilderness designation (see above).

73-5
FIRE SUPPRESSION: The document does not sufficiently consider the potential impacts on the land by fire suppression techniques which include road construction and/or heavy use of buildoors or other mechanized equipment. The document should have an integrated study of the advantages of allowing fire in undeveloped areas to play its netural, ecological role.

73-6 WILDLIFE PROTECTION: We would like to see more attention paid to special wildlife habitat areas, including bighorn sheep recatablishment. Nongame species descrive equal management protection as game species.

NATERSHED PROTECTION: existing watershed withdrawals as eachlished by Congress should be retained. It is not made clear what bydro-development projects are planned that might call for abendoment of such withdrawals. Impacts of withdrawals are required on this topic.

And explanation are required on this topic.

ORV USF: the limitation of CNN travel to designated reads and trails in mear of the Resource Area is good, but concern remains as to the extent of reads and trails left open. On the aspectation of further clarification of this and RNN's addition deed for more public imvolvement, we are commenting no further on CNN routes here, but request to receive all future materials on this issue: 'including momomballe use.

Thank you very such for offering us the opportunity to comment on your draft Resource Management Plan.

Sincerely,

**Licky Hoover, Chair
Wilderness Subcommittee

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 73 (Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapt., Wilderness Subcommittee)

- 73-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 73-2) Please see the "Grazing" general response.

Riparian improvement is one of the primary goals of the RMP. Improvement is being directed by site-specific decisions within management areas and by eight DPCs (described on pp.241-243, draft RMP).

73-3) See the general response for the corridor study.

Specific measures, such as the removal of existing powerlines made obsolete by proposals for new lines, would be considered as measures to mitigate the impacts of a new line. Such mitigation measures would be addressed in the environment analysis of a project proposal. The impacts of locating a new line in an existing corridor would not necessarily be less than locating it in an unoccupied corridor. Only through a separate analysis of each project could that determination be made.

- 73-4) See Minerals general response (p.5-13), items 3 and 4. Mineral development with regards to water pollution is regulated by the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board and Army Corps of Engineers. Impacts of mining on water quality are therefore beyond the scope of this document. Visual impacts are described in a general manner, in the absence of site-specific proposals, in Chapter 4 of the final RMP. As mining plans of operation are submitted, a detailed EA or EIS will be prepared to address impacts to visual resources and other values. Also see response 69-2.
- 73-5) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 73-6) We appreciate your concern with habitat management for nongame species. As one example, our decisions for

implementation of desired plant communities would benefit a broad diversity of non-game animals in some areas.

73-7) See general response for watershed withdrawals.

JANJ

Tuesday, January 15, 1991

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding Eastern ENA lands in Mon and Inyo counties, Specifically, I direct my comments towards the recent draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and its four different alternatives. I urge you to support Alternative 3 (three), the natural resource enhancement alternative, with the following chances:

- 75-/ | Protect the roadless character of all Wilderness Study Areas
- 75-2 Withdraw all BLM lands adjacent to Bodie State Park from mineral development (in addition to the 30,000 acres proposed for withdrawal under alternative 3).
- 75-3 Assess the condition of the range throughout the resource area and restrict or eliminate grazing from areas which are being impacted by overgrazing.
- 75-4 Prohibit off road vehicle use in ALL wilderness study areas, ACECs, and other regions where motorized travel could degrade resources or conflict with other uses.
- Support designation of the ten rivers found eligible for Wild and 75-5 Senic status with the provision that private land in the river corridor be acquired to increase the mile of streams which are protected.
 - Support the ACEC designations, utility corridor elimination, and land acquisitions under Alternative ${\tt 3.}$

As an avid hiker and backpacker, I sincerely desire that you act to preserve and protect these Eastern Slerra lands for those wanting to experience their historical, ecological, and wilderness values, as well as safeguarding the livelihood of indigenous plant and wildlife species.

Sincerely, Mark Adrian Mark adrian

5116 Park Rim Drive San Diego, CA 92117-1044

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 75 (Mark Adrian)

- 75-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 75-2) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5) and the general minerals response (p.5-13), which address this issue.
- 75-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 75-5) Please see response 69-7.



JAN 17 1991

January 14, 1991

Mr. Michael Perguson Area Manager Bishop Resource Area U.S. Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

RE: Input on Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for BLM's Bishop Resource Area.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Defenders of Wildlife submits this letter as our comments and recommendations on the above-referenced Draft RMP. Please consider our input, and include this letter in the appropriate administrative record.

At the outset, we are disappointed with NEM's preferred alternative because it would not adequately protect many isportant species, habitats, and other resources. For example, this preferred alternative would only withdraw one half of one percent of public ands from the product of the provided of the

In light of these and other deficiencies, we support and urge BLM to strengthen and implement Alternative 3, the Natural Resource Enhancement Alternative. For example, we support Alternative 3's proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations, the elimination of a utility corridor, and land acquisitions to protect important resources and facilitate coordinated BLM management.

However, please substantially strengthen Alternative 3 prior to its implementation. For example, please place all Wilderness Study Areas in protective roadless management until Congress acts upon BLM's Wilderness remendations. In other words, the pristine roadless character of all Wi rness Study Areas must be maintained and fully protected.

Next, in addition to the 30,000 acres proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry under alternative 3, please also withdraw all BLM lands adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park. A massive proposed mining operation near this famous ghost town could literally shake apart fragile historic structures and otherwise destroy the integrity of this park.

CALIFORNIA OFFICE: 1228 N ST., SUITE *6, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • (916) 442-6386 • FAX: (916) 442-6389 NATIONAL OFFICE: 1244 NINETEENTH ST., NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510 • FAX: (202) 833-3349

O Priced on respiral paper

Defenders

In addition, please provide an objective and comprehensive assessment of riparian habitates and other range conditions affected by domestic livestock grazing. The RMP should require that when the assessment's findings are adverse impacts or resource conflicts occur. For example, livestock grazing should be stopped where it is diminishing important riparian habitate or jeoperatizing bighorn sheep through the prospect of disease

The RMP should prohibit off-road vehicle use in all Wilderness Study Areas, ACECs and other areas where motorized travel may harm resources, conflict with other uses, or be difficult to monitor.

Finally, please support and work to implement the designation of the ten streams found eligible for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic River System, along with a provision to acquire private lands in these stream corridors wherever possible to increase the miles of streams which are protected. Until such protective designation occurs, these streams aligibility for designation, to preserve their resource values and aligibility for designation.

In summary, please support and work to implement RMP Alternative 3, with the above-described strengthening provisions.

Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,

California Representative

cc: Interested Parties

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 76 (Defenders of Wildlife)

- 76-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 76-2) Please see the general Bodie response, which addresses these issues.
- 76-3) Please see the "Grazing" (p.5-11) and DPC (p.5-10) general responses,

We appreciate your concern for wildlife habitat. Intensive assessment and monitoring of streams and riparian habitat has been an ongoing effort in this resource area, and this information is part of the public record used in preparing the RMP. Methodology and data are available for review at our office. TMPMP sets objectives for riparian and other habitats; where monitoring shows that these objectives are not being met, conflicts will be resolved through site-specific management plans.

There are no domestic sheep grazed on Bishop Resource Area lands on or adjacent to current bighorn sheep habitat.

- 76-4) Please see general response to comments on OHV management.
- 76-5) Please see response 69-7. In the interim, the free-flowing nature of the creeks and the outstandingly remarkable values which contributed to the creeks' designation will be protected.

Polar Equipment Company • 12881 Foothill Lane • Saratoga, Celifornia 96070 • Telephone 408-967-4576

JAN 12 16



January 14, 1991

Perhap Resource Management Plan Mith, Vergowon, Was Moneya Fuscon of Land Wheneyawort 787 Morth Meen 56. Burly CA 13514 I have followed the Keones Mangart Plan for some time and Den Mr Feyers : would let to lawould on it marmed taked in the ground aren over the year, My main even is grazing , De overgression . The fact is more of the said west should be grized et all let alone there occas in questions. The surgest of graying on waterbuds and on plant and wildlife is the main case of the problem with plant and willlife. Without the personn of grouping the plants and willlef was the case of themselves , The other principle concern is the small eccusy alloted to William Deggs Roters. The jugar of such desgration is to present about to Jublic lands from ORD and morning Such disgostron ac after arrigant only to relaterly uninque text recountain tops and cente areas suit of concern, in the first place, to the summing and grazing interests, A knew you kne down a good job in swang acres and I can appeared the presum you are under, but it know you will covered my plants parties our feether lands. Generally Kolu J Wilelley

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 77 (Polar Equipment Company)

77-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

77-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.



Pacific Legal Foundation

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

January 15, 1991

RONALD A. ZUMBRUN ROBIN L. RIVETT JAMES S. BURLING Pacific Legal Foundation 2700 Gateway Oaks Drive Suite 200 Sacramento, California 95833 Attorneys for Pacific

Legal Foundation

INTRODUCTION

Pacific Legal Foundation is a nonprofit, public interest law firm based in Sacrasento, California, with a branch office in Anchorage, Alaska. PLF has over 20,000 supporters throughout the United States and has the primary purpose of litigating in the public interest and in the defense of individual freedoms, private property rights, the free enterprise system, and balanced environmental and public land policies.

Our public lands contain substantial economic, natural, and recreational resources. The use of the public lands, for as many compatible purposes as possible, has long been a corneration of our public land policies. While society's estimation of the relative value of certain resources has changed over time, our ability to use the public land resources for a variety of multiple uses remains crucial. In other words, while society may consider recreational values more important today than a generation ago, the public lands still can, and must, be managed to accommodate recreation and grazing and mining and vildlife and so on.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Mining Law of 1872 provide particular direction to land managers in how to manage the public lands for multiple uses, including mining. The Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

- 1 -

(DREMP/EIS) attempts, but ultimately does not succeed, in meeting the goals of FLHMA and the mining laws. These comments will address areas where the DREMP/EIS can be improved. Because of the fallings of this draft, another draft should be prepared <a href="https://december.org/because.com/bec

A. Area-Wide Alternatives

The discussion of the area-wide alternatives needs elaboration. Many decisions are listed for each of the four alternatives, but those decisions are not explained. Either there should be more discussion in the area-wide alternatives, or reference should be made to the more specific individual management area discussions that treat the listed decisions in more detail.

1. Alternative 1

The following comments for Alternative 1 are generally applicable to the other alternatives listed in the DARMP/RTS.

The Alternative 1 "decisions" listed on Pages 39-40

do not necessarily comport with the more detailed decisions described in the individual management area discussions. For example, on Page 71, the DBEMP/EIS states that the Long Valley Management Area theme for Alternative 1 makes recreational use and geothermal development secondary to

wildlife. Yet, the area-wide discussion of Alternative 1 does not expressly state that wildlife will be primary. In many other places, the discussion of the area-wide

- 2 -

78-1 cont.

78-2

78-3

alternatives is very vague, and provides no real clue concerning what the specific management decisions will be. This sort of ambiguity must be resolved.

The Alternative 1 discussion states that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will "[p]rovide salable minerals for community and private use, within the constraints of the plan." DERMP/EIS at 40 (emphasis added). But what are the "constraints of the plan"? If they are not listed in the plan itself, this information is not very useful. The only detail is found on the charts on Page 37. Those charts indicate that there may be restrictions in "yearlong and seasonal protection areas." What areas? What restrictions? Is this related to the Land Use Restrictions Map for Alternative 1 that shows areas as "Yearlong Protection," or "Seasonal Protection," or some combination thereof?

Likewise, the DBRMMP/RIS explains that Alternative 1 will allow for "geothernal exploration and development within the constraints of the plan," DBRMMP/RIS at 40, but there is no explanation of what the plan is, except for the chart on Page 37 and the Land Use Restrictions Map. The map incidentally has three categories: "Yearlong Protection," "Seasonal Protection," and "No Geothermal Leasing." Do all three restrictions apply? (The same need for clarification applies to the other alternatives as well.)

An alternative that prohibits geothermal leasing should not be adopted. World events are making it painfully
- 3 -

78-3 cent.

78-4

clear that we should work in the direction of energy independence, rather than fighting for energy dependence.

In the description of Alternative 1, maintaining the status quo, it is stated that 2,000 acres will be withdrawn from aineral entry. Yet, on the chart on Page 37 it states that 30,000 acres are proposed for withdrawal under Alternative 1. This contradiction needs clarification.

The withdrawal of 30,000 acres of mineral lands, in any of the alternatives, would not be good policy, and is not in accordance with the policy dictates of the Mining and Ninerals Policy Act of 1970, 30 U.S.C. § 21a, where Congress declared that "it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government in the national interest to foster and encourage private enterprise in (1) the development of economically sound and stable domestic mining, minerals, metal and mineral reclamation industries." This goal is repeated in FLPMA, at 43 U.S.C. § 170(a)(12), and the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, 30 U.S.C. §§ 1601, 1602, and 1605.

78-5

The statement that the "(a)verage allotment wide utilization will not exceed 60%," DRRMP/EIS at 40, needs clarification. Assuming that it refers to livestock grazing, where does this number come from? Why is it necessary? What will be the socioeconomic impacts of such reduction on the ranchers and communities dependent in part on livestock grazing?

- 4 -

78-6

78-7

The DBRMP/EIS says under Alternative 1 that the "Bodie Bowl SRMA will be managed to preserve Bodie's historic integrity in coordination with Bodie State Historic Park." Exactly what does this mean for potential mining in the area? The more detailed discussion on Page 62 for Alternative 1 is no more informative.

In general, the present day management of the area provides for a good mix of multiple uses. But exactly what Alternative 1 means is too ambiguous as described to determine the preferability of this alternative. In the more detailed charts on Page 37 it appears that Alternative 2 is a better alternative, but more detail is required before such a conclusion can be reached.

2. Alternative 2

Alternative 2, Custodial Management, has some merit in that it will encourage the productive use of the natural resources of the region. Unfortunately, the details of the alternative are too sketchy to be certain that this is the most preferable alternative. However, because the implications behind some of the language used to describe this alternative (e.g., "minimal management," "reactive management") are negative, it appears that BLM is not seriously considering this alternative. Although this alternative should be given serious consideration, it probably is included in the DBMMP/ZIS only for the purpose of setting out the end of the continuum of possible uses. Is

78-7

78-8

this the "hard look" required by the National Environmental Policy Act?

The discussion of the Bodie Hills on Pages 41 and 43 is equally uninformative as it is for Alternative 1.

The DBRMP/EIS does not adequately explain why the management goals of Alternative 2 would necessarily require the closing of the Crowley Lake Campground.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 is completely unacceptable. It represents an extreme philosophy oriented against human-oriented uses and natural resource development. The discussion notes on Page 43 that "[i]ncreased funding would be required." With the present budget crisis, this is less than likely. Therefore, this alternative makes little practical sense.

There is insufficient discussion as to what the implications of this alternative would be on the people who live in and near the management area. Such a discussion should address community economics, employment, and the social dislocations caused by 10b losses.

For the reasons discussed above, the closure of 30,000 acres to mineral entry would be unacceptable. It is contrary to congressional policy and to the economic and "eccurity needs of the nation.

- 5 -

4. Alternative 4

78-9

78-10

Alternative 4, like the preceding alternatives, requires more elaboration and study of its socioeconomic impacts.

This is the only alternative that refers to "roaded natural experiences." Since an overwhelming majority of recreational visitors engage in sightseeing from automobiles, this is a necessary aspect of whatever alternative that is ultimately chosen.

This alternative states that snowmobile use will be limited to designated areas and routes. DBRMF/EIS at 50. The chart on Page 37 elaborates by saying that there will be restrictions in sage grouse wintering areas. What is the scientific basis for this decision? Where are there references to studies supporting a relationship between sage grouse populations and snowmobile restrictions?

The proposal to withdraw 1,900 acres from mineral entry is not supported by the record. It conflicts with Congress' stated management goal of encouraging the development of domestic sources of minerals. Mineral withdrawals are not in the public interest when intelligent planning and reclamation plans for mineral exploration and development can be just as effective in protecting the environment.

Off-road vehicle use should not be prohibited or unduly restricted on existing roads or ways, especially

- 7 -

when such off-road vehicle use is necessary for mineral exploration, livestock grazing, and responsible recreation.

Overall, for a "balanced" alternative, this proposal is too heavily weighted toward the protection of everything except natural resource development (<u>i.e.</u>, mining, grazing, tourism).

B. Alternatives for Individual Management Areas

As with the listing of the decisions under the four area-wide alternatives, the decisions for the various alternatives for the individual management areas are often not supported by any rationale and are too vague to understand the full implications of any particular alternative.

1. Coleville Management Area

The decision under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4 to acquire between 945 and 1,751 acres of private land should not be adopted. The federal government already owns more than enough land in the region. If management objectives cannot be met in areas where the government already owns over 90t of the land, the government needs to reassess its objectives. Moreover, a federal agency which cannot accomplish its goals under such circumstances does not deserve any additional land. Further reductions in private land will only further erode the local tax base and potential for gonomic development.

- 8 -

78-11

78-12

78-13

78-14

Limited commercial timber harvesting as described in Alternative 2 is a viable option that should be adopted, subject to regulatory constraints that protect wildlife in the area.

Alternative 3 is not acceptable because of its incompatibility with human use and enjoyment of the area.

The idea in Alternative 4 to consolidate salable minerals to one pit needs explanation. Why is one large pit preferable? Are the minerals in the region so homogeneous that one pit can serve the same needs as separate pits? How will the economics and leasing details be worked out?

The statement on Page 57 that "[t]he local economy would benefit more from increased tourism than by short-term consumptive uses of timber and other natural resources" is unfounded and without factual basis. It strongly reflects the unsubstantiated bias of the writer. Where are the economic studies supporting this conclusion? Where is there any analysis of how much tourism will be developed? Consumptive uses have served the region well for decades and is in no way incompatible with the as yet unrealized goal of tourism. Consumptive uses are not short term so long as renewable resources are properly managed. Even mineral development is a long-term sustainable use in a regional economy when exploration for new replacement deposits is allowed.

- 9 -

2. Bridgeport Valley Management Area

78-15

The proposal to dispose of 506 acres of bureau land (Alternatives 1 and 2) for community development should be adopted rather than Alternatives 2 or 3 (0 or 207 acres, respectively). There is a shortage of nonfederal developable land which can be met by this disposal.

Saleable minerals should continue to be made available as discussed in Alternatives 1 and 2.

No further land should be acquired in the region.
The acquisition decisions for Alternative 3 (2,175 acres) and
Alternative 4 (1,138 acres) should be rejected. There is
already too little privately owned land in the area;
reductions will adversely affect economic development and

78-16

Rather than removing areas from mineral entry, Alternatives 3 and 4, emphasis should be placed on regulating mineral activities to ensure that they remain compatible with environmental values. There is no support anywhere in the DBRMP/EIS that mineral exploration and mining cannot proceed in a manner compatible with environmental values. Lacking such a showing, these withdrawals are arbitrary and

78-17

capricious.

Similarly, there is a lack of analysis as to why geothermal leasing must be prohibited within one mile of the Travertine Hot Springs. Leasing with adequate stipulations

- 10 -

78-17 cont.

should be able to adequately protect the values of the springs.

Overall, the preferred alternative lacks any "multiple use" character. It is, instead, a prescription for preservationism, and does not follow the congressional mandate in FLPMA for multiple use.

3. Rodie Hills Management Area

78-18

A proper analysis of alternatives is especially critical in the Bodie Hills Management Area. It is well known that Galactic Resources may develop a large scale mine that could greatly enhance the economic vitality of the entire region, and in fact make a significant contribution to the state's mining economy. A decision to proceed with a management plan that minimizes multiple use and mining would be contrary to the public interest.

78-19

In Alternatives 1 and 2 it is stated that while geothermal leasing will be allowed, no surface occupancy will be permitted and there will be no physical structures that are not in "harmony" with historic and visitor values. Just what is this sunnosed to mean? How can there be practical geothermal development without at least minimal surface occupancy or nonhistoric structures? If this is the same thing as a ban on geothermal leasing, the DBRMP/EIS should say so. In these times of energy uncertainty, geothermal leasing should be adopted in the preferred alternative, in a manner that makes such leasing practical.

- 11 -

76-20

Physical structures necessary for other uses of the Bodie Bowl should also be permitted when necessary.

78-21

Land should be released for residential housing as per Alternative 2 (62 acres). With the prospect of a major mine in the region, it is important that affordable housing be available: one way to achieve this would be to free up small amounts of RIM land for private acquisition.

The proposals in Alternatives 3 and 4 to acquire large tracks of private land (13.825 and 5.725 acres) should be rejected outright. There is no proven need to remove this land from productive use and the tax base of the community.

78-22

The emphasis on the maintenance of dependent plant communities in Alternatives 3 and 4 (as in all the other individual management areas) exalts a single-use philosophy over too many other existing and potential uses of the area. This emphasis should be curtailed in the final preferred alternative.

78-23

Alternative 3 has substantial adverse implications for the ranching economy in the area. This alternative will require drastic reductions in cattle allotments, and a change from cattle to sheep in some areas. There is no showing that this is necessary, and it is certainly contrary to the socioeconomic interests of the residents. The economics of sheep and cattle ranching are very different. It is simply not practical to force cattle ranchers to become sheepherders overnight. Nor is it necessarily desirable. This

- 12 -

alternative (and the elements of this alternative that are incorporated into Alternative 4) should be rejected. 1

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cent.

Alternative a likevise should be rejected. Its heavy emphasis on habitat and "enhanced" recreational values, at the direct expense of mining and livestock grazing, is contrary to the public interest. Well regulated mining and livestock grazing can coexist with wildlife habitat and recreation; there is no good reason to curtail mining and livestock activities. The choice of this alternative is more reflective of an anti-resource development bias than sound resource management principles.

In fact, it is absolutely incredible that this preferred alternative's "Management Theme" should so completely ignore the presence of a world-class mine that has the potential of pumping, over its lifetime, millions of dollars into the local economy, and adding \$2 billion to the local tax base. It would be highly irresponsible for BIM to adopt an alternative that does not adopt the management goal of doing everything necessary to promote the development of an environmentally responsible mining operation in the Bodie Bowl. Otherwise, the plan would be in direct contradiction of Congress' unambiguous policy to promote domestic mineral production on the public lands. While it is true that no

¹ While it is understood that the management plan is not the primary planning document for livestock activities, many of the decisions made in this plan will have a significant impact on livestock ranching. The implications of these impacts must be thoroughly examined.

~ 13 -

78-25 cont.

78-26

lawauit has ever been filed challenging a plan's failure to comply with the express policy mandates of Congress, there would be reasonable grounds for such an action if the plan is adopted as written. The final alternative must not only recognize the existence of the mineral deposit, but it also must remove bureaucratic obstacles to successful mineral development.

For example, the visual resource designation of the Bodie Bowl as "VRM 1" standard, and the main travel routes as "VRM 2" is just such an unnecessary impediment to mining.

It is likewise questionable that the Bodie Bowl should even be considered as "A Special Recreation Management Area" considering the mineral resources of the area.

The description of the alternative is too vague. For example, the proposal to enhance "dispersed recreation opportunities such as OHV touring," DERMP/EIS at 65, is to be applauded--except it is unclear if the plan's method of enhancement would be at the expense of livestock grazing and mining. It is not necessary that such enhancement be at the expense of grazing and mining, yet the vagueness of the description leaves this possibility open. In fact, there should be no conflict between recreation and resource development. The final plan should better explain what "enhance" means, and make it clear that such enhancement will not be at the expense of other resource values such as grazing and mining.

- 14 -

78-27

The proposal to make the Bodie Bowl into an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) should not be adopted as written. First of all, there is a lack of showing that the area needs to be made an ACEC. According to 43 U.S.C. i 1702(a), an ACEC is defined as appropriate when required to "protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic ... values." It is apparent that the proposed designation of the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC is designed to restrict mining operations. But because the mining operations will occur well away from the historic townsite, there is no showing that the mining would have any adverse impact on any historic structure. Therefore, designation of the Bodie Bowl as an ACEC would be overkill.

On Page 65 the DERMEYEIS attempts to justify the ACEC designation by referring to the need to protect the "mistorical integrity of the landscape." Exactly what is this supposed to mean? Mining operations, by definition, alter the landscape. All landscapes are quite old—in fact, generally millions of years old. If the Congress meant to protect all historical landscapes when it established the ACEC designation in FIFMA, it might as well have simply banned all surface mining, period. Nor is it credible that Congress meant to ban all mining in mountains that might be visible from historical sites. Because there is an abundance of historic sites in the West, especially in and around heavily mineralized regions, that too, for all practical

- 15 -

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purposes, would result in the de facto prohibition of all surface mining in the West. In short, there is no basis in FLMMA for designating an area as an ACEC just to protect the "historical landscape." Only if the actual historic structures in Bodie were to be threatened can an ACEC be justified. Because the anticipated mining will occur well away from the old townsite, there is no danger to the historic structures and an ACEC cannot be justified.

No activities need to be prohibited to protect the national landmark. No boundaries have been established for the landmark; only 34 buildings and sites are covered—which are all well away from potential mining activities.

78-28

The listing of "Support Needs" needlessly ignores the mining prospects in the area. For example, while the construction of a four-wheel-drive trail, mountain bike trail, and a horse trail makes extremely good sense; those trails should not be routed anywhere near the site of Galactic's proposed mine or across active mining claims. Unless the point is to create antagonism between the miners and the trail users, conflicts should be avoided in advance by routing the trail away from the mine.

7A-29

other aspects of this alternative appear to be excessively vague with respect to grazing. For example, the proposal on Page 66 to "[f]ence selected primitive camping areas from livestock" gives no indication as to how much area will be fenced—and how critical those areas are to

- 16 -

78-29 cont.

78-30

livestock. If the proposal, for example, seeks to fence off springs and access to riparian areas, the repercussions to cattle ranching could be severe.

In short, this alternative with its antigrazing tilt, its proposal to acquire thousands of acres of private property, and its unnecessary restrictions on mining activities should be rejected.

4. Other Areas -- Pages 67-91

To avoid repeating the same themes, these comments will not go into detail for the other areas discussed on Pages 67 to 91. All the concerns discussed in detail for the Coleville, Bridgeport, and Bodie Hills areas are equally applicable to these other regions. In general, Alternative 2 is preferable in all of these areas. In general, a maximum amount of acreage should be privatized for local community development needs. There should be no further acquisition of private lands. The federal government already owns enough land to achieve its legitimate management objectives. The emphasis against livestock grazing and mining activities should be reversed. Geothermal development should be allowed to proceed with minimal restrictions—except for those

5. Table 2-2

Table 2-2 on Pages 92 to 113 is seriously flawed.

Each one of the individual management area alternatives,
under the minerals categories, lists a percentage of

- 17 -

78-30 cont. locatable minerals that cannot be developed. First of all, no alternative should be accepted that so drastically reduces the amount of minerals available as found in most of the preferred alternatives (e.g., Coleville--60% overall; Bridgeport--90% reduction in visual resource zones and 35% overall from environmental restrictions; Bodie Hills--50% and 25% respectively; Granite Mountain--between 20% and 70%; Benton--up to 45%; Long Valley--up to 100%; Ovens Valley--10% to 20%; South Inyo--up to 60%; ovens Valley--10%. These preferred alternative reductions are completely contrary to Congress' policy in favor of domestic mineral production.

What is worse, the sewere economic implications of the restrictions on ranching and mineral development are not discussed anywhere in the DBRMF/EIS. The cumulative economic lost opportunity costs could be severe. Recent studies from other states have concluded that the economic losses from wilderness designations are much larger than previously assumed. In a study contracted by the Utah Association of Counties, for example, it was found that the annual lost economic opportunity costs were \$13.2 million annually from 3.2 million acres of proposed wilderness. Leaming, George F., Western Economic Analysis Center, The Adverse Economic Impacts of Wilderness Land Withdrawals in Utah, (1990). Sewere restrictions on mineral development and livestock grazing will have analogous sewere effects which must be studied before the management plan is adopted.

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78-31

Furthermore, such drastic limitations might well create regulatory takings of patented and unpatented mining claims. In 1987, the United States Supreme Court issued two opinions which resoundingly affirmed the long established constitutional doctrine that excessive regulations can result in a taking of private property, and that just compensation must be paid to the property owner for such takings. Nollan v. California Coastal Commission, 483 U.S. 825 (1987); First English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glendale v. County of Los Angeles, 482 U.S. 304 (1987).2 As a direct result of these two cases, President Reagan issued Executive Order 12630, 53 Fed. Reg. 8859 (1988) (reprinted in 5 U.S.C. § 601 note), which has been reaffirmed by President Bush. This Executive Order expressly requires the performance of a Takings Implications Assessment before a federal action is taken that might constitute a regulatory taking.

Unpatented mining claims are private property rights in every sense of the word. Hilbur v. United States X. rel. Krushnic, 280 U.S. 306 (1930). Excessive regulation of a mine can result in a taking. Pannsylvania Coal Co. v. Nahon, 260 U.S. 393, 415 (1922); Keystone Bituminous Coal Association v. DeBenedictis, 480 U.S. 470 (1987) (although no taking found from mere enactment of statute, the Court ruled that under specific circumstances there might be a taking).

The drastic regulatory constraints on mining represented in the plan have severe consequences for the property rights of the owners of patented and unpatented mining claims. As such, the plan must be accompanied by a genuine takings implications assessment before a final plan is adopted.

There is another fundamental problem with the analysis in Table 2-2. The numbers have no basis. Mineral exploration is an imprecise science. There is simply no way of determining where economic deposits of locatable minerals exist without extensive geological exploration work. Regional geological, geophysical, and geochemical surveys are usually required before a target area can first be identified. Once a target is selected, there must be intensive geological mapping, geophysical surveying, and ultimately drilling before the presence of a deposit can be confirmed. Most mineralized areas are looked at many times

by many different exploration companies before one is

mineral economics and technologies change with time,

uneconomic deposits may become economic, and vice versa.

Therefore, without extensive preparatory work, which takes

many years and large amounts of cash, it is impossible to

declare where economic locatable mineral deposits exist.

persistent and lucky enough to find a deposit. Likewise, as

3 While on the subject of Executive Orders, the plan must also comply with Executive Order 12291 and complete a regulatory impact analysis.

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² Pacific Legal Foundation attorneys represented the plaintiffs in the <u>Nollan</u> case and Ms. Bonnie Agins as amicus curiae in the <u>First Church</u> case.

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78-32 cont.

78-33

No such preparatory work has been conducted in the planning area to allow for such broad conclusions that 80% of the locatable mineral deposits in one area will be foreclosed, and only 20% in another area. If any geological work has been done, it is not cited or discussed anywhere in the DBMM/FIS. The short list of references cited is conspicuously devoid of any reference to any geological surveys or reports. Because mineral exploration is such an inexact science, the numerical estimates in Table 2-2 lack credibility. Because the derivation of these numbers is not (and probably cannot be) explained, the numbers cannot be accepted.

One point remains, however: Despite the questionable merit of the statistics, that the plan would even contemplate management decisions that have the drastic adverse impacts on mineral activity is proof enough that the chosen alternative should not be adopted.

C. Affected Environment

1. Recreation Use Areas

1. Recreation one Areas

The DBRMP/EIS states on Page 120 that:

"A major issue that has been identified is potential development of an open pit gold mine near Bodie Bluff. Present day mining operations of this magnitude would be incompatible with the overall objectives for the area."

This statement is not supported. It is also wrong.

Mining can and does coexist with environmental and recreation
values. The plan cannot be used as a tool for eliminating or

- 21 -

78-33 cont. drastically curtailing mining in the Bodie Bowl. Reclamation of mine sites can be very successful. Sem. ALL, Krauss, Reclamation Practices at Homestake's Kciauchhin mine.

A2 Mining Engineering 1239 (1990) (recent article describing state-of-the-art reclamation of a mine in California). The quoted statement does nothing more than reflect the unfortunate anti-mining bias of the writer. Instead of focusing on the potential negative impacts from mining, the plan instead should concentrate on ways to make the mining compatible—without drastically raising costs or eliminating mining areas.

2. Minerals

on Page 136 DBRMF/EIS lists areas where mineral activity is considered likely to occur. Identifying potential mineral activities is a useful planning tool--so long as it is recognized that such predictions are inexact and so long as such identification is not used to foreclose mineral activity in other areas in some future planning process.

78-34

78.35

The definition of major mineral deposits as those having "<\$1 million" appears to be a typographical error.

What is the basis for the estimate that 3% of the

mineral deposits are major and that 2% of the small deposits will be mined by underground methods? While these might be accurate estimates, no source is provided and it is unclear whether these estimates were formulated specifically for the

- 22 -

78·35 cont. management area or whether they represent broad estimates from nationwide or worldwide mining experience. Similar questions exist for the estimate on Page 137 that 60% of the mineral deposits are subecomonic and 35% are marginally economic. Does the remaining 5% refer to the 3% and 2% fource listed immediately above?

Also, caution must be exercised in putting too much weight on such astimates, no matter where they come from. What is a "mineral deposit" and what is simply "country rock" varies with prices, technology, and time.

Assuming the numbers are accurate, it is not clear what they mean in the context of the plan. Do these figures represent the present day economics—or do they reflect the economics in place once the preferred alternative is adopted? Were different percentages calculated for the different alternatives? If not, why not?

The statement on Page 137 that "even minor environmental constraints on their [mineral deposits] development can render them uneconomic" is absolutely true. Therefore, it is imperative that the management of the Bishop area be directed toward reducing all unnecessary environmental constraints—which may entail a reevaluation of what a "necessary" environmental constraint is. Otherwise, it will be clear that the regulatory constraints are directly responsible for making economic mineral deposits maryinal and

- 23 -

78-35 uneconomic--and this could create potential takings cont. implications.

What is the meaning of the chart on Page 138 that

1ists gold as being "potentially valuable" in the Bodie

Hills? With the exploration by Galactic for a major gold

deposit, gold ought to be listed as more valuable than other

minerals. By lumping all metals together for each area,

despite the obvious difference in the value of some deposits,

the usefulness of Table 3-8 is questionable.

D. Impacts

78-3B

What is the basis for the statement on Page 177
78-37 that 78% of the locatable minerals deposits are economically feasible for development? How does this figure relate to the estimates in Table 2-2 that 10% to 90% of the mineral deposits will be foreclosed from development? A similar question exists for the discussion of locatable minerals for the other alternatives.

In both the preferred alternative and Alternative 4, it is stated that 50% of the deposits will be mined because of added environmental costs. Is this figure tied in to the estimate of locatable mineral deposits that are economically feasible for development? If so, why does Alternative 3 estimate that 68% of the locatable deposits are feasible for development, and Alternative 4 estimate that 70% will be feasible, while both have equal reductions (50%) in

- 24 -

78-38 cent.

78-39

the number of operations because of environmental constraints?

A reduction in 50% of the mining operations has serious takings implications that must be addressed in a takings implications analysis. Furthermore, such a drastic reduction represents a poor policy choice when it is Congress' express policy to promote a domestic minerals industry. Clearly, BLM can do better.

78-40

The discussion of Impact on Visual Resources for the preferred alternative on Page 183 fails to adequately demonstrate that the impact on visual resources from mining activity is so adverse that mining must be drastically curtailed. Many tourists enjoy exploring and watching old and existing mine sites. With proper interpretative material, mines can add a new and positive dimension to a visitor experience. It is suggested that instead of concentrating on "negative" visual impacts from mining, that BLM work into the plan ways to augment visitor appreciation of mining in order to make mining and visual resources more compatible.

The discussion of OHV recreation activities represents a positive element of the plan--but it must be emphasized that recreation and mining are not incompatible. Mining takes up only a very small percentage of the total land area in the management area, and intelligent recreation planning can avoid in advance any conflicts.

- 25 -

The statement on Page 103 that "[s]ineral development in the Bodie Bowl and at Golden Gate Mine would sewerely degrade historio values and recreation opportunities" is unsubstantiated and untrue. Mistory is not over. Many modern, large open pit mines currently operating in the West are today's tourist stops and tomorrow's history.

BIN Goes not have a mandate to freeze the West in the 19th

78-72 material sites in the south Tableland would impair natural values and increase trash, vandalism and plinking* needs support. Properly managed material sites should not lead to these adverse consequences.

The statement on Page 184 that "(m)inerals development would severely degrade historic and semiprimitive values in the Bodie Hills (especially the Bodie Bowl), Bridgeport Valley, Coleville, and South Inyo MAs" is unsubstantiated and appears again to reflect an anti-mining bias by the author.

The statement on Page 183 that "[n]ew mineral

78-43

century.

The discussion of recreation for the other alternatives suffers the same flavs of bias and lack of substantiation. Alternative 4, in particular, claims that "(h)istoric values at the Bodie Historic National Landmark would be maintained due to mineral development restrictions." DRRMP/EIS at 187. None of the 34 historic buildings and attempt and the present the same threatment. No restrictions are needed (nor are

- 26 -

78-43

they adequately described). Again, there is no showing that such restrictions, whatever they may be, are necessary in the first place.

78-44

The Impact on Mining discussed on Pages 197 to 199 needs clarification. For example, the statement on Fage 197 that "[d]evelopment of 25% of the mineral deposits will be constrained by seasonal protection and 2% by year-long protection" needs to be clarified. Specifically, how were these numbers derived and how do they relate to those statistics found in Table 2-2 and those starting on Fage 177? The same question applies to the figures used for the other alternatives.

78-45

The discussion of the preferred alternative states that 9 locatable mineral deposits and 26 salable mineral deposits will not occur because of new regulatory constraints. DBEMP/EIS at 199. What is the basis for these figures? How, as a policy matter, can these drastic reductions be justified? BLM should adopt an alternative where the benefits of mineral activity are weighed more heavily in the equation, and where the regulation of mining strives to actually prosect mining activity while fully protecting the environment, instead of simply planning with the goal of promoting habitat and wildlife values at the deliberate expense of mining activities. Also, a takings

- 27 -

implications assessment is required before adopting this alternative.

78-46

The preferred alternative states:
"These restrictions will make 50% of the deposit uneconosic to develop. This will represent an increase of \$1 billion to Mono County's tax base and create over 250 jobs compared to the \$2 billion and 500 jobs generated under Alternatives 1

Once again, no derivation of these figures is provided. More importantly, where is the justification for precluding 250 jobs and a \$1 billion addition to the tax base? Such reductions are not responsible planning. They are directly contrary to Congress' intent to promote mining activities which is expressed in FLPMA, 43 U.S.C.

and 2." DBRMP/EIS at 199.

§ 1701(a)(12), among other statutes.

CONCLUSION

The DBHMF/EIS needs much work. It requires substantially more detail so that the public and government agencies can understand exactly what the plan entails and exactly what management prescriptions will result from the plan. It requires much more substantiation of its statistics, so that the appearance that the numbers were drawn from thin air is reduced. And, more than anything, it requires a recognition that resource development activities are a positive aspect of the public lands, necessary for the mation's economic health and security, and that minerals and livestock development must be sneouraged rather than discouraged.

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The DBRMP/EIS should be completely redone. A revised draft with the necessary detill to allow for meaningful public comment should be presented for public review. Then, BIM should adopt an alternative that is more accommodating to hatural resource development and use.

DATED: January 15, 1991.

RONALD A. ZUMBRUN ROBIN L. RIVETT JAMES S. BURLING

JAMES S. BURLING

Attorneys for Pacific Legal Foundation RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 78 (Pacific Legal Foundation)

- 78-1) Decisions are the result of the impact analyses and are explained in the rationales. Management area decisions are meant to apply only to the specific management area in question. By definition, they are more detailed than area-wide decisions. Thus, where the area-wide direction calls for a general continuation of present management, the specific management theme for Long Valley is stated in the Management Area theme (which is continuation of existing management in the Long Valley area).
- 78-2) See general responses for minerals (p.5-13) and for geothermal (p.5-15). VRM restrictions are shown on figures 2-3 and 2-4 in chapter 2 of the final RMP; seasonal and year-long restrictions are illustrated on Map 1, Land Use Restrictions. Acreages of high and moderate mineral potential affected by these restrictions are listed in Chapter 4.
- 78-3) See general response for geothermal.
- 78-4) Both the table and the text were incomplete in the draft. A total of 2,000 acres are currently withdrawn. Under Alternative 1, prior management, an additional 30,700 acres were proposed for withdrawal but these withdrawals were never completed. In addition, 28,200 acres in the Southern Inryo WSA will be withdrawn if Congress designates the WSA as wildemess, as expected. The total acreage is accurately reflected in Table 2-1, final RIMP.

- 29 -

78-5) This decision has been changed. See the Area-Wide decisions for the Preferred Alternative 4 in Chapter 2.

This office considers 60% to be an acceptable use level based on allowable use percentages for the native vegetation within the eastern Sierra. Allowable use is the amount of current year's growth that can be removed from forage plants without causing detriment to the plant.

Setting the maximum use at 60% will keep grazing use within the allotment's carrying capacity and not necessitate AUM reductions to ranchers.

- 78-6) We are establishing management guidelines for the Bodie Bowl to protect the nationally significant cultural resources within the Bowl. Projects which can meet the standards would be allowed; those which could not, would not. See general Bodie response.
- 78-7) Alternative 2 was developed to closely examine one end of the range of funding possibilities. We have given this alternative serious consideration and believe the preferred alternative as portrayed in the final RMP provides the best course of action to resolve the issues identified by the public.

The terms 'minimal management' and 'reactive management' were not intended to be negative, or to indicate Alternative 2 was not to be given serious consideration. The intent was to indicate that management under Alternative 2 would be driven by applications for various uses. Funding would be minimal and would not be used for any type of intensive, proactive management.

Under that scenario, BLM funding would be spent solely to meet public demand. Since the demand for use at the Crowley Lake campgrounds is very low except on opening weekend of fishing season, closing the campground would save a significant amount of money.

We hope this clarifies the intent of Alternative 2. As required by NEPA, all alternatives were developed as reasonable scenarios and given the same level of analysis.

- 78-8) Thank you; your concerns have been noted and documented. Alternative 3 was not selected as the preferred alternative. A complete discussion of community economics, employment and the social impacts of mineral activities is beyond the scope of this document. The impacts and reasonable foreseeable development scenarios are addressed in Chapter 4 of the final RMP. A summary of these issues is in the general minerals response.
- 78-9) The decision to restrict snowmobile use from sage grouse winter habitat is based on survey information collected in this resource area. The amount of available winter habitat is very small compared to summer, and is additionally restricted by the quality of sagebrush as a food item. The restriction of sage grouse to small areas of suitable winter habitat warrants concern for the type and extent of human activity occurring.
- 78-10) See general minerals response.
- 78-11) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 78-12) The commercial harvesting in Alternative 2 is in reference to 9 small stands of old growth timber in steep inaccessible drainages. It would be cost prohibitive to do a selective cut with wildlife constraints.

- 78-13) The proposal to concentrate all sand/gravel sales to one pit in the Long Valley Management Area is needed to reduce environmental impacts from salable mineral development. The size of the Long Valley Management Area is such that most needs for sand/gravel can be accommodated from one pit. Upon approval of the RMP, a study will be conducted to determine the site of the pit. Existing pits will then be closed and reclaimed. Free use permits and material sales will be made from this pit material. The royalty rate will be established in a report by BLM mineral appraiser following BLM 3600 manual guidelines.
- 78-14) The statement you have described has been deleted in the final RMP.
- 78-15) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 78-16) A mineral withdrawal is compatible with Alternative 3, the Natural Resource Enhancement Alternative. Intensive land uses would be more restricted and closely monitored. This alternative promotes enhancement of natural resources while deemphasizing commodity production. Alternative 4, the Preferred Alternative, seeks to develop resources while enhancing or protecting environmental values. A close review of Alternative 4 reveals less proposed mineral withdrawals than Alternative 3. Alternative 4 attempts to regulate surface disturbing activities to meet resource condition standards, and includes some proposed withdrawals. The prescriptions for the Bodie Bowl ACEC fillustrate this well.
- 78-17) See general response for geothermal,
- 78-18) Your comment has been considered. The amount of any contribution to the state's economy, as well as the costs to the local community, would be analyzed in an EIS in response to a proposed mineral development. To date, there has been no such proposal.
- 78-19) See general response for geothermal.

- 78-20) These will be permitted if they can meet the standards which will be developed. See general Bodie response.
- 78-21) See response 31-12 and general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 78-22) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 78-23) The decision to encourage a conversion from cattle to sheep if the grazing privileges are relinquished or transferred has been removed from the final RMP. In Alternative 3, this decision applied only to the Bodie Hills MA where grazing impacts are concentrated in small areas (aspen groves, riparian, meadows). Management is more efficiently applied with sheep grazing than with cattle, i.e. sheep are herded and cattle are not. It is very simple to tell a herder not to graze certain aspen groves or to hold off grazing a meadow.

Impacts were addressed on pp.200-202, draft RMP; please see the revised impacts in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.

- 78-24) We appreciate your concern with the content of the proposed management for the Bodie Hills Management Area. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 78-25) See the general Bodie response (p.5-5). The BLM does not know that there would be a "world class" mine at Bodie. The area is currently being explored and we have received no proposal for a mine. We do know that we have a nationally significant historic resource, and our intent is to protect that resource. If a mining development were proposed that would meet the limits of acceptable change and not adversely affect the Landmark, then it would be approved.

- 78-26) The enhancement of dispersed recreation opportunities is not meant to conflict with grazing or mining activities. It is meant to provide long-term direction and guidance for recreation program development when opportunities or the need arise.
- 78-27) See general Bodie response for an explanation of the ACEC and our management intent,
- 78-28) Proposed route connectors and trail developments have been removed from the final RMP and would be reconsidered in the activity plan process. See general response to comments on OHV management. We agree that if any new routes or trails are developed, they should be located to minimize or reduce conflicts with other uses of the public land.
- 78-29) The proposed fencing of camping areas has been deleted from the final RMP.
- 78-30) GIS maps of high and moderate mineral potential were overlaid with withdrawals and restricted areas to determine the magnitude of impacts listed in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.
- 78-31) Because we have not received a mining proposal, there is no "taking" assessment needed at this time.
- 78-32) We concur that mineral exploration is an imprecise science. The economic and development scenarios used were derived from professional judgement and available data. These scenarios have been rewritten for the final plan.
- 78-33) This issue has been identified, and supported by almost 300 letters we have received. You have taken the quotation out of context. It merely stated that this was a concern raised by some people.

We are not using the RMP to eliminate or drastically cutral mining within the Bodie Bowl. We are using the RIMP to establish some management direction to protect the nationally significant resources in the area. The standards and guidelines would apply to any proposed activity within the Bowl. See the general Bodie response, which addresses the need for management guidelines in the Bodie Bowl.

78-34) The listing of mines and mining districts is not intended to be an exhaustive list of the locations for future mineral development. Most future mining projects, however, will probably take place in old mining districts.

You are correct; this should read ">1 million."

- 78-35) The minerals impacts in Chapter 4, final RMP, has been rewritten to clarify these estimates. Please refer to the general response for minerals concerning environmental restraints.
- 78-36) Table 3-8 is not meant to indicate the relative value of minerals that might be found in each management area. It is simply a summary of minerals that have been known to have been produced from each management area in the past.
- 78-37,38,39) The basis for impacts to minerals is explained in Chapter 4, final RMP,
- 78-40) Visual impacts from mining are based not only on viewer sensitivity to changes in the landscape but on impacts to the physical environment. The alteration of surface features has an effect on the area's visual qualities to some degree. The visual resource management classes will direct mining to operate within an acceptable level of visual contrast. Where this approach is applied, there may be some opportunities for environmental interpretation.
- 78-41) The word "would" has been changed to "could" in the final.

78-42) The physical nature of the Volcanic Tableland is such that successful rehabilitation to surface disturbances is very difficult. The area is easily traversed by vehicle; the tuff deposits are discolored when fractured. Material sites in the Tableland, particularly near Bishop, have attracted individuals who have created additional impacts such as trash accumulation, plinking, graffiti, and vandalism. Properly managed material sites are labor intensive incurring high management costs, both to the Bureau and private operators. Administrative costs such as monitoring of the material sites and capital expenditures are factors which contribute to the costs of site management.

Additionally, the semi-primitive values of the south Tableland are considered high. The final RMP recognizes this and prescribes the area be closed to salable minerals.

The impact scenarios you described applied to localized areas of projected mining related activity. Mining operations projected for these areas would affect local surface features and, consequently, the local semi-primitive and historic values. The final RMP has been modified to qualify the impacts.

78-43) See the general Bodie response.

78-44,45) See response 78-35.

78-46) See response 54-4.

James Wilson Wilson's Eastside Sports 206 N. Main St. Bishop, Ca. 93514

16 Jan. 1991

Mr. Mike Perguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Hain St. Suite P Bishop, Ca. 93514

D. Mr. Ferguson,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

I have concerns with a variety of things as below:

- 1. A grazing analysis should be in all alternatives. The 1981 BLM EIS "Proposed Livestock Grazing Management for Benton-Owens Valley Planning Unit" is outdated. The RMFPEIS should cover current grazing impacts and options. Blm should disclose the hard evidence it has that the 1981 plan is still current, if it proposes to incorporate it into the current document.
- 79-2 2. If DPC's are to be used they should be expanded to include all of the Resource Area.
- 13. The Soldier Canyon Powerline Corridor is unacceptable. No roadless area should be sacrificed on such tenuous grounds. The justification for any new powerline corridor in the Bishop Resource Area is sparse at best, where is the data that justifies such an intrusion? The need analysis in the document is clearly Inadequate. The Eastern Sierra has made sufficient sacrifices to Southern California's power needs already and Southern California has adequate existing power. Our local economy depends on tourism, and this power corridor passes close to areas used by many local and tourist citizens. It would significantly impact views. The potentially significant impacts to archeological and visual resources, mule deer habitat, bly horn sheep habitat, and raptor populations, including sensitive and endangered species, is unacceptable. If a new transmission corridor is to be considered, it should be removed from the RMP and evaluated in a completely separate EIS that examines the proposed corridor and all other options as wholes, not piecemeal.
- 79-4 4. Wilderness, a vitally important commodity to my business, is scarcely discussed in the plan. While any Wilderness proposals

- 79-4 Valley/Rodie-Coleville Final Wilderness SIS, I feel it is appropriate to state here that the Wilderness SIS, I feel it is appropriate to state here that the Wilderness recommended in that document is totally inadequate. Additional Wilderness in the Southern Inyo Mountains, Granite Mountain area, Crater Mountain, the Volcanic Tableland and Bodie Hills should be created.
- 79-5 Swatershed withdrawals should be left as they are. This watershed, so important for water, recreation and wildlife, should remain protected.
- 6. The entire South Inyo and Bodie Hills Management Areas should be withdrawn from mineral entry to protect scenic, wildlife, historical and recreational values.
- 79-7 | 7. No trail building in Slinkard Valley. They are not needed.
- 8. Full fire suppression should only be practiced when human life or property are threatened. The environmental damage from buildozed lines is usually greater than the burn.
 - I support the Conway Summit ACBC and the appropriate grazing closure.
- 10. Monitoring and evaluation processes are not clear in the 79-9 plan. Timing and funding should be defined. All the planning in the world without a strong commitment to monitoring and evaluation is worthless.

11. The Wild and Scenic River studies are a great idea. All candidate streams should be given full protection.

- 79-70

 12. Page 201-202, A case can be easily made that less grazing would have a positive effect on the local economy. Some areas with high recreational potential have low recreational utilization precisely because of conflicts with grazing and consequent habitat deterioration. People don't like to camp and frequently mention damage from grazing as a concern after outlings in the Owens Valley. I would like to see the hard numbers for the conclusions on pages 201-202 and the financial impacts discussed in alternatives 3 and 4. Tourism contributes a far agriculture.
- 79-# 13. The RMP should contain a SOP stating no net loss of riparian or wetland habitat in the Bishop Resource Area as a goal.

Thank you James Wilson RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 79 (James Wilson)

- 79-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 79-2) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 79-3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 79-4) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 79-5) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 79-6) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- 79-7) All trail development proposals were deleted from the final RMP. Any trail development in specific areas would be addressed in recreation activity plans.
- 79-8) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 79-9) Please see the "monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP. An area-wide "monitoring" support need has been added to Chapter 2.

Many of the RMP decisions will be implemented by activity plans. These activity plans also have monitoring sections for evaluation.

79-10) The BLM does not believe that recreation and tourism would be dramatically improved with a reduction in livestock grazing. The BLM does believe that with proper livestock management, grazing and recreation can co-exist.

Please see the revised "grazing" impacts in Chapter 4.

79-11) The final plan includes an area-wide decision to assure no net loss of wetlands or riparian habitat. Mr. Mike Ferguson, Area Manager 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop. California 93514 January 16, 1990

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

80-1

80-3

The 'following comments represent our input to you on your Draft RMP/EIS.

1. Visual Resource Management. We were quite disappointed to see the lack of visual resource protection in all of the alternatives, including Alternative 84. The Bureau preferred alternative shows that SZZ of the Resource Areas lands being classified as VRM 111. As we understand it, VRM 111 allows for major modifications in the existing character senter and stage. In order to protect the diverse and senter and the sentence of the protect of the diverse and RMM, Intellect of the Change from the existing character BMM, Intellect on no change from the existing character BMM, Intellect on the Change from the existing character becomed to the considered. We urge you to increase this plans sensitivity to visual resource values.

2. Off Highway Vehicle Use. Currently, there are thousands of miles of roads and trails inside the Bureau Resource Area. Unfortunately, this mileage is increasing significantly every year. These additional miles are not planned miles but rather created at the whims of OHV users. As a result, negative land use impacts (to all resources) are increasing. We do not see in this document a viable plan to solve the problem of increasing road and trail mileage or a general management philosophy to close the many resource dance exist and which are causing significant resource dance.

3. East-Mest Transmission Line Corridor. We strongly oppose your preferred alternative through Solidor Canyon. This alternative would clearly suffer the most environmental damage. Your EIS bears this out. Sensitive plants would be impacted, up to 30 % of the calving grounds for the Tule EIK would be destroyed, and there would be lethal impacts to reptore, including the bald eagles. This corridor has the alternative eve of natural character of any of the alternatives.

The other proposed White Mountain corridors also would cause serious problems. All of them would have to emerge at the south margins of the Owens Lake, where it is admitted that

there is little room between Owens Lake and the steep slopes of the Sierra. Visually, this would devastating no matter how much color mitigation was used.

The EIS analysis concedes that not only are the requirements for new corridors environmentally less desirable than using existing developed corridors which are in the Las Vegas area, but also the costs for building the longer transmission lines in the Las Vegas corridor "would not be more, and may even be less because of the extensive mitigation measures that would be required to reduce visual other impacts in the Owens Valley and the east-west

We understand that the rational for utilization of the White Mountain corridor is supposedly for improved reliability. However, we feel that it is high time that power companies devote more time and energy to engineering solutions to reliability rather than resorting to continual despoiling lands with high quality senic and natural resource values. We urge you to not grant power companies the rights to these proposed corridors.

4. Wilderness Designations. Mhile we realize that these So-Y kinds of designations are not part of this plan, we do feel that the management direction for Milderness Study Areas needs to be in specific accordance with the Benton-Owens to the Court of Final Wilderness ElS. To date, this has not occur, and the court of the Court o

5. The BMP, on page 3 identifies management direction for 50-51 9-02 years. This appears to be undesirably loose. We suggest that this provide direction for 10 years with a with time. We would prefer not to have the provided in the first that the suggest of the provided in the provided

6. Land Disposal. Throughout the plan land disposal proposals are discussed. In many cases the reason for disposal is community expansion. We object to disposals for

- this purpose. Invo-thono Counties are full of developers who

 an happy to divide land for the purpose of profit. We

 suggest that the majority of persons in these two counties

 as the suggest that the majority of persons in these two counties

 developments. We have the suggest of the sugges
- Designations: As users of Bureau lands, we find no formal OHV designations for all resource lands" established (page 25). We view this to be critical for us to evaluate land use impacts.
- 8. Soil and Mater. These two major resources do not appear
 pose to be discussed to the level of other resources, i.e.
 recreation, wildlife, range. These values need to be
 made to be a second of the second of the
- 9. Wildlife Management. The RMP proposes intensive
 on management for sensitive fish and wildlife habitat in much
 of the Resource Area. Despite these good intentions, you
 habitat conditions for sensitive change in populations or
 habitat conditions for sensitive change in populations
 from projects on BLM, Forest Service, and private lands. We
 suggest that you could strengthen your case for wildlife
 protection by enacting mineral withdrawsls, reducing or
 elementing grazing and disallowing DMP use in sensitive
- 80-16 Range Management. Because of contradictory claims in 90-16 PMPP, it is difficult to ascertain exactly what kind of restrictions, if any, are imposed on grazing. Nevertheless, the IMPF is clearly deficient in this area since assemble of the declining range condition. It is a second of the declining range condition. It basis because of range managements interrelationships with

- all other resources. The RMP fails to clearly document the second eclining condition of the range since the MFP's were implemented ten years ago. Disclosure of this data would clearly point out the need for an overhaul of the outdated grazing EIS's on the MFP's. We urge you to strengthen your optimum habitat on all Bull lands to include management for optimum habitat on all Bull lands to include management.
- 11. Minerals. We propose that you withdraw from locatable mining those lands in the Bodie flountains and Inyo Mountains that host habitat for plant and animal communities that are listing. This is approximately 30,000 acres. Given the National designation of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and all of the resource qualities that are present, we urge you to withdraw from mineral entry a three to approximately 35,000 acres. This would amount to approximately 35,000 acres.
- The MMP appears to compensate, to a degree, for an overall gover wak position on the mining issue by imposing visual objectives of preservation on 46% of the Resource Area. However, this is weakened by the fact that any proposed mine Plan Amendment to change visual classification of the area in question. Me urge you to finalize the RMP in a fashion that will not allow for the continual piecemeal adjustments by amending the RMP at the whims of mining or other development type proposals. If adjustments to the RMP do formal updating of the Plan every 10 years.

Following the printing of the Final RMP, we will be anxious to review your action plans for accomplishing the objectives and goals set out in this plan.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our comments, concerns and thoughts.

Jan + Mariane Morgan

Garl & Marianne Morgan

419 Arboles Drive Bishop, California 93514 RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 80 (Gary and Marianne Morgan)

- 80-1) Alternative 4 (preferred alternative) of the final RMP prescribes 48% of public lands as Visual Resource Management Class I & II while Alternative 1 (present management) prescribes 26% as Class I & II, a 22% increase over present management. Class III acreage was reduced by about 19% from Alternative 1 to Alternative 4 of the final RMP. Overall, the preferred alternative reveals a stronger emphasis on visual resources than did prior management.
- 80-2) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 80-3) Corridor designation within the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area would result in the least overall environmental impact when compared to the other east-west corridor areas evaluated. While there would be impacts to tule elk, raptors, sensitive plants, and the natural character of the Soldier Canyon area, when compared to the other considered, a Soldier Canyon corridor designation would minimize the concern of increasing prolonged human exposure to EMF, would have no impact on wild horse, deer, or antelope habitat, and would have acceptable impacts to visual resource management objectives. However, the corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 80-4) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 80-5) The 10-20 year period is an estimate, based on the Bureau's experience to date, of how long RMPs remain effective. They usually require complete revision within 10 to 20 years. The proposed plan includes monitoring designed to periodically determine if the plan needs to be amended or if a complete revision is necessary. See Chapter 1 for a brief description of this process.
- 80-6) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.

- 80-7) Vehicle use designations were described in the draft RMP under Areawide Alternatives in Chapter 2 (pages 39-50), and in the Areawide Summary of Decisions table on p.36-37. This is further described in Chapter 2 of the final RMP.
- 80-8) Please refer to *Determinations That Will Not be Made in This Plan,* Chapter 1. Standard operating procedures (SOP's) concerning soil conditions and water quality have been added in the final plan.
- 80-9) We predict the habitat and population condition for most sensitive species on BLM administered land would be maintained or improved from the current situation. As examples of decisions affecting these species, please refer to the final plan area-wide decision for yearlong protection of endangered, threatened and candidate plant and animal habitat, and to develop new habitat for Owens pupfish and other species in the Benton management area.
- 80-10) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11). Response 15-2 also addresses your concerns.
- 80-11) A mineral withdrawal will most likely follow Congressional designation of the Southern Inyo WSA as wilderness. We have considered mineral withdrawals, but T & E habitat is not located in areas of high mineral potential. Likewise, the area around Mono Lake is of low mineral potential. See discussion of mineral withdrawals in general minerals response (p.5-13).
- 80-12) Since the draft RMP was published, we have reevaluated the Visual Resource Management program and identified parameters which will apply to future management. These are shown in Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures of the final RMP.

Additionally, the RMP amendment process is designed to accommodate changes in land use planning where it is necessary. The Bureau determines if an amendment is warranted based on public need and benefit. The amendment process incorporates full public review and an environmental analysis to support its initiation. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION P.O. BOX 942896 5ACEAMENTO 94295-0001 (916) 445-7067



January 16, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Bishop Area Hanager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Hain Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514-2498

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

This Department has hed an opportunity to review the Draft Hishon Resource. Homeoment: Earn and Revirconsental Demost Retainant: The preparation of such a wide-samping planning document is by its wary nature a difficult one, particularly in the subject area where a multitude of resources, intersets and public demands compute. You and your staff are to be complemented for the preparation of such a comprehensive document which is sensitive to the multiple uses which Compress has charged you to manage. At a timperature of the complement of the such preparation of the comprehensive document which is sensitive to the multiple uses which compress has charged you to manage. At a timperature of the complement of the property of the page process, the draft accomplishes this purpose.

While in general we are pleased with the thrust of the Bishop RMP, this is not to say that we agree with all of its recommendations. By its very nature, the Department is most concerned with the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed policies on the two State Park System units within the Resource Area. Mono Lake State Tufa Reserve and Bodie State Historic Park were both established by the Legislature of the State of California to protect (respectively) unique natural and cultural resources for this and future generations of Californians. Ways in which the draft program may affect the resources within our areas of responsibility either positively or negatively are issues of greater than local concern and are of interest to the people of the entire state. To facilitate our comments resulting from the review of your draft we have prepared the attachment to this letter. We hope that our comments may be helpful to you and will serve to prepare a final document which will be even more protective of the resources which we are all charged to administer. If you have questions relative to our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number or Noah Tilohman at (916) 323-8763.

Sincerely.

My Rayher

Richard G. Rayburn, Chief Resource Protection Division

Englosure

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREMITION COMMENTS ON BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FLAM

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

January 16, 1991

The State Park System unit most directly affected by the Bishoo Rescured.

Binogeometric Bisho (1987) is noted in that Bishoot Date (1987), a content within the Social Billion Security State (1987), a cold-s across in size (18 the de carees of cold-size), a cold-s across in size (18 the de carees of cold-size), and cold-size portion of the area commonly known as the Bodie Bod. This 7325 some area is defined by agreement between this Department and the Bursen of East Date Green Cold-size (1988). The Cold-size (1988) is the size of the content of the area of the cold-size (1988) is the cold-size of the cold-size (1988). The cold-size of the cold-size of the cold-size (1988) is the cold-size of the cold-size (1988) in the cold-size of the cold-size (1988) is the cold-size of the cold-size (1988) in the cold-size (1988) is the cold-size of the cold-size (1988) in the cold-size (1988) i

In 1979, the Culifornia State surk and socreation Constants adopted the State State

he can superturn schilition, the Lounds of Dactaices commencing on page 24 should schoolded the constant of the 260 by stating that the 300 till subsolidentify areas of high cultural resource values which say be threatened by competing resource uses for the purpose of providing mossessay protection. In schilition, this section should state as a policy within the 300, that a state's environmental law and regulation are explicable to foreign limits or Gorden's lands as Court of the C

In queezl, this Department is supportive of the preferred alternative proposed by Risk. Bet faffects the Rodin Rost, our main area of intermet, we believe that the draft plan embodied by this alternative is, on balance, protective of the rescurses within your administration and curries out your responsibilities under current federal law and regulation. Nonebelses, we see a number of instrances where clarification of proposals or the

-1-

81-1

substitution of policies from Altamative 3 would make the document more specific to the issues, while serving the public's interest by protecting and perpetuating the resources of the area for future generations. Recordingly, the following comments are presented with the intent of supporting your presented Preferred Altamative For the Bodde Hill's Removement Presented Foreirred Altamative For the Bodde Hill's Removement Zero.

Recreational Uses:

81-2

AI-3

We use that the intent of our management agreement with BHX relative to cuty use be incorporated into these policies so as to clarity the Bureaus's intent that no new GHY routes he established within the Bodie Rod. This policy would serve to ministice cultural and helatix resource degradation within the semaitive area, while smintaining the characteristics of the Bod that serve to perpotuse the choice to character of Bodie.

P: support the concepts of prohibiting shooting within the Bodie Bood area to protect other recreational uses, as well as prohibiting casping in the same area due to past negative experiences with these activities resulting in degradation of cultural recording.

Cultural Resources

The high value and level of protection proposed by the NSF serves to sessue us of SHFs commitment to protect the important and extensive resources of the Boul. For the sake of clarification for the future users of this focusest we surgest their as equanded description of the protection afforded focuses the future of the protection of the protection afforded focuses the future of the same protection of the contract we further users that the same protection of the cultural values of this area. Its suggest the use of the area of the prediction of the cultural values of this area. Its suggest the use of the area of the preliminary homodary presembled at Bodie during the Logislative briefing of Spetia (77, 1990. Froviation would be mode, of course, that upon final adoption of a boundary by RST that boundary would approach the SST graphic

Mineral Developments

The issue of a modern mineral development and its associated million and processing facilities is of angle concern to this Department and to the people of the fitted of California. Because no specific project has yet been proposed we have not taken a position on the interest currently being receptable the proposed of the position of the interest currently being capabilities of this industry limetrated over the open many concerned that similar evolution ower the life of the BPP could result in impacts never anticipated by this document. Therefore great care must be taken to smake clear in the policies adopted that the quale are to protect the cultural, following.

That guidalines to prevent unnecessary and unhas degradation within the Rodie Resuntain Resources Area he based upon expended direction within the Rodie Resuntain Resources Area he based upon expended direction within the plan. This direction should include, at a minisum, standards based not upon current industry practice, but upon an ideal of accomplish as paper industries that the nested indirection of the complish as appending one. By spalling out such regularements for development of mining related development, intrastructure, use, restoration, suitquiend and related development, intrastructure, use, restoration, suitquiend and related the related to the same of the complete and the related to the same of the related to the complete and the related to the same of the related to the complete and the related to the complete and the related to the

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"Be do not see the withdrawal program purposed in Alternative 3 for mineral lands within the Roids should as being mixtually exclusive with the regulatory scheme purposed in Alternative 4. Bather, we see that they are sminurally supportive foundations of a comprehensive mineral policy designed to protect the Bodie Bowl on a long term beats.

he you are sence, the California Legislature, during its 1990 sension, adopted a resolution calling upon Bill and the Secretary of the Interior to protect and perpetuate the resources of the Bodie Bodi it they are threatment. We ware not summer sen of this data of any response or acknowledgement of this request. The vehicle of the any response or acknowledgement of this request. The vehicle of the considerable state of the sensitive of the constant of all locatable mineral lands within the Bodie Bodi. Such a program, once adments of which would be are location in the event that current claims are found to be invalid, become insactive, or are allowed to lapsee. This program would work arm-in-arm with a strengthened program of regulations recommended above to protect the finite recreations, natural and outural recorress of the Bodi from

The RMP should define the threshold "threat" referred to in this resolution.

81.6 - In recent letter from the Rishop Resource Area office, summaring impact analysis may have been based on some state (parts of the mining, grasing impact analysis may have been based on some inaccurate assumptions," and that you will probably be making substantial rawisions of these. We conselves were concerned that the projections presented waves such larguer than we had sufficiented based upon our limited on which the projection of the second wave such in the properties of the plant of the second of the projection of t

- 2 -

we had previously sepressed concern over the possibility of mineral leading within the Bood near. While seurizes company usual be prohibited in the current plan, we are still concurred over the impacts of such lesses. In particular, the issue of smeldence should be addressed, as well as other potential resource impacts of such lesses.

Habitat and Wildlife Resources:

81-7

81-De a wall as the SRP, this is pertuent in he books entered to the high behitst and wilnife value of the area. We balieve that further investigation will confirm the presence of travested and zero plant and animal species. (We have previously forwarded to you copies of confirm the presence of travested and zero plant and animal species. (We have previously forwarded to you copies of confirm the confirmation of the second of the confirmation of the confirmation of the second of the confirmation of the secon

A greater acknowledgment of the important, perhaps unique role that the Bodie Boul plays as an ecological island should be made with strengthened policies to protect this area.

Relative to wildlife we suggest that the insue of increased fencing of allotments be addressed. Such fencing interferee with migration routes of deer and promptorn artelope. The needs of the stock raiser should be addressed and belanced with wildlife needs.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

No are supportive of the designation of the hodie Rouf as an Area of Critical Pair/memmental Concern. Such special management statements in Security and protect the resources of this area. However, we believe it is necessary to set forth in greater destail how the requirements of the Russew's Multiple Use philosophy will provide a balance of protection while allowing consumptive uses which seeminful conflict with the NEON's quality.

Hono Lake Tufa Reserve

8/10 should be sears that there are examples of the rare tufa formation on BLM lands located north of Mono City between Righmay 395 and Wilson Creek in the vicinity of Righmay 167. We suggest that greater protection be provided to these natural resources in light of California Public Resources Code Sections 5045 through 5045.

- 4 -

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 81 (State of California Parks and Recreation)

- 81-1) This has been considered; the Bodie Bowl has been so identified. Some of the Granite Mountain decision is still open to interpretation, and the RMP is not the place to discuss it. There is a state-wide MOU to implement SMARA on BLM managed lands, as well as an MOU with Mono Country for local projects.
- 81-2) The Bureau will address your proposal in an upcoming activity plan for OHV management in the Bodie Hills. The State Park is currently represented on the steering committee of the Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management Plan process. The steering committee will review the Bureau's recommendations during this phase of site planning. Under the preferred alternative, vehicle use will be limited to designated roads and trails.

The shooting prohibition boundary in the Bodle Bowl will be identified in the upcoming ACEC activity plan. This has been clarified in the final RMP under Alternative 4. Other issues such as camping prohibitions will also be addressed at the activity plan level.

- 81-3) See general Bodie response (p.5-5). It addresses most of these concerns.
- 81-3a) Many aspects of mineral development are expected to change over the life of the plan, including technology and commodify supphy/demand/price scenarios. The RMP is based only on foreseeable events. However, the RMP is a very flexible document and subject to amendment if deemed necessary by unforeseen events.
- 81-4) The portion of the alternative to which your comment refers has been modified in the final RMP. The overall management objective is to preserve the existing historic integrity and visual values of the ACEC. Based on this direction, limits of acceptable change will be developed in an activity plan which will identify standards for surface disturbing activities.

- 81-5) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- This is the final RMP. There will not be another draft. 81-6)
- By "mineral leasing," we assume you are referring to geothermal 81-7) development. See general response on geothermal (p.5-15).
- At this time, we have no clear evidence of unique faunal 81-8) assemblages or individual species located in the Bodie Bowl which could be recognized as "island" populations. We are aware of species like the pika and Townsend big eared bat (a federal candidate species) which occur in the Bowl at restricted localities

We appreciate your comment concerning allotment fencing and its effects on deer and pronghorn movement. Additional fencing of wildlands, if needed, is addressed in action plans. Fencing is minimized and constructed according to methods which should cause the least impact on animal movement and behavior.

- These concerns have been addressed in the general Bodie 81-9) response.
- 81-10) The resources you have identified would be addressed in activity plans for the area. Identification of the tufa formations has been added to Appendix 6 of the final RMP.

January 16, 1991

787 N. Main Bishop, CA.

This letter is in regard to the Long Valley management proposal currently under review by the Bureau of Land Management Specifically, we would like to address office in Bishop, CA. land usages in the Long Valley area as they pertain to the Alkali Ponds. The pond of special interest is located west of Whitmore Crossing Road approximately one quarter mile south of the Mono County dumn.

The current stewardship of the aforementioned pond is under the control of the Department of Water and Power of Los Angeles.

California, (DWP).

Currently there are approximately fifty to one hundred Mammoth and June locals who periodically windsurf this five acre spring and runoff fed natural lake. What we seek to accomplish is a formal designation of this pend as a windsurfing location. The reasons we believe that this pond should be set aside as a

recreational area to be enjoyed by tourists and locals alike are es follows: 1. Past and current usage by as many as twenty five

sailors at any given time. 2. Current listing of ponds as a premier Eastern

Sierra windsurfing spot in statewide cublications. 3. Ideal wind conditions; both direction and speed; rare in the Eastern Sierra where mountains affect wind on most

other lakes. 4. Excellent water conditions, a) Depth; maximum 4 ft depth is ideal for learning high speed sailing techniques as well

as being safe (no lifeguard necessary) b) Temperature; because of shallow depth water heats up earlier in the season and

facilitates an earlier start to the sailing season. 5. Due to the small size of the lake, no interference with ski boats, jet skis, sailboats or fishermen is encountered. 6. No major improvements are necessary as there is already a short access road to a small parking area. addition there is a grassy rigging area and a small earthen dam

(broken). 7. Positive impact on area tourism; many people stop and take pictures of bright colored sails with the Sieries as a backdrop. These tourists are interested and supportive of our

sport. 8. Airport weather reports can be used to accurately predict wind speeds and directions at the Alkali Ponds eliminating wasted time or gas driving to other potential dealing areas ea. Klondike Lake.

S. The Alkali Ponds are the only good sailing spot between Washos Lake near Reno and Klondike Lake at Big Pine.

10. Windsurfing is one of the fawtest growing water sports in the world and the number one fastest growing in Europe. 11. Designated recreational usage of small lakes is

not unprecedented in the Eastern Sierra eg. a) Washoe Lake

c) Diaz Lake

12. Soft lake bottom is easy on feet and equipment when falling off board.

13. Due to alkali nature of water algae growth is not

13. Due to alkali nature of water algae growth is not an interference as on nearby Crowley Lake and other shallow fresh water lakes.
14. Minimum impact on area; no scarring of land such

14. Minimum impact on area; no scarring of land such as that imposed by snowmobiles, motorcycles or even mountain pulse.

The previous reasons are the ones we could list on short notice. I am sure there are others which would also be valid and could be examined if time permitted to list them. As with any oroposal for usage of public lands and especially wetlands, there are mitigating factors which must be addressed.

First and forement is the issue of land stewardsing. Currently the land which incorporates the Alkali Pond in question is controlled by DWP Los Angeles. We would be willing to work with any governmental agencies involved to reach a mutually satisfactor if not beneficial erangement.

If possibly equal importance, especially in years of below average precipitation is water supply. Water rights being the first issue here we assume the TMP has rights not only because of land stewardship but also because of past actions. Specifically, a small earthen own about two feet in height built by mailors 3-F years and one about two feet in height built by mailors 3-F years and one observed by DMP in appring 1990. Either the DMP had rights to the blocked 5-10 acre feet for water or they have an earthright to inswer the small dam and the sallows.

The need to raise the level of the pond 1-2 feet above natural level is to make the pond deep enough, 3-4 feet instead of 1-2 feet, for windsurfing to be prolonged into August and September, two of the warmest months in a Sierra summer.

The source where to raise the Lake level to its level of the past three years is spring ranceff from the surrounding hills and valleys of the Antelope Valley area. This water currently rins through the ponds and spills over the outlet into a channel which eventually empties into Crowlev Lake. If the DWF is concerned sout this small fraction of water to which they hold rights me are willing to produce funds to compensate them of Flondise or Dwarf Lake the results of Flondise or Dwarf Lake his notion to water supply.

In addressing water supply we have touched upon the only improvement necessary to return the ponds to a viable recreational state. This improvement, already accomplished 3 years hence is a seall, 1-2 ft. in height, earthen dem across the

natural outlet of the Pond.

This dam previously built by sailors out of mud 3 years ago would need to be replaced for the ponds to be enjoyed windsurfers throughout the summer. Otherwise, the ponds become too shallow to sail by July.

If an earthen dam does not meet specifications desired by the agencies involved, we would be willing to supply materials and manpower to either build a more suitable dam or possibly depen were deemed acre appropriate. For 1971 a dam would be simpler and since either alternative would have to be accomplished by April to captive the Spring runoff, we would suggest the dam as

Lastly, environmental concerns must be addressed, especially when dealing with water diversions. In taking with Dave Lehman it became apparent that Species unroam to the properties of the control of th

Thus contrary to causing harm, an increase in water level could conceivably benefit species which frequent bodies of water throughout the area. In general, surface water supports waterfewl and in conjunction with all other local species. Finally, since the spill over charming the surface of the surface of

In summary, we are concerned about a natural body of waker, an Alball Fond. The pond identified earlier is already being used as a recreational area by people from as far away as Europe and as close as Ammonth Lakes. Previous improvements in the form of a small parking area, a grassy rigging area, and a 2 foot earthen das seem to have caused no environmental detriment over the past 3 years. Smallar improvements to Alball Fonds have been about the contract of the contract of

By writing this letter, we are trying to work through oroper channels and cooperate with all Governmental Regulatory Agencies to produce a viable recreational opportunity unavailable satisbar over. The short insprovements necessary to achieve this goal are smissal, have precoent here and in other counties, and appear to have no conflict with the surrounding environment or sensitive springs in the area. We would greatly appreciate of our favorite recreational activity, sulboarding the solvement.

82-1

Michael Melin Po. Box 1035 Mammoth Les 4 93546 (614) 934-7160 THANK-YOY,
THE WINDSHEF COMMUNITY FROM
THE EASTERN SIERRA.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 82 (Michael Melin, Windsurf Community)

82-1) The issue of windsurfing management would be addressed in the upcoming activity plan that is identified in the draft RMP, p.73.

JAN 17 1991

JANUARY 15 1991 PO. BOX 496 BIG PINE, CALIFORNIA 93513

DREA MANAGER BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 787 N. MAIN STREET, SUITE P BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

RE! DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRDINMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

DEAR SIR -

T COMMENTO YOUR AGENCY FOR AN HOWEST EFFORT IN COMPLETING THIS DRAFT PLAN AND E .I.S. 1 AND AM THANKFUL FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON IT FOR THE MOST PART T SAUDE ACTERNATIVE NO. 3 -- IT BEST BEGINS TO MODEST THE WEEDS OF THE RESUMPE AREA, I BELIEVE,

AND I HOPE THAT A FIFTH ALTOCHIATURE WILL GROW

OUT OF IT.

NO CEMENTAL PRIORITIES ALE SOMETIMES QUESTIONABLE OR FINEN CONTRADICTORY. FOR EXAMPLE THE INCLINATION TO FAVOR CERTAIN POPULAR GAME SPECIES TO ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TENOS TO ONLY HARM THE DUFFLALL ECOLOGY OF AW AREA. AND WHILE NATURE O LUATION IS A FORM OF RECREATION THAT INTERFECES LITTLE OR WOT AT ALL WITH SUCH ACTIVITIES AS HUNTING OR OHV USE THE SAME UNEQUIVOCALLY CANNOT BE SAID OF THE LATTER FORMS OF RECREATION WHICH BUDGETHE FORMER ONE. IT'S QUESTIONAISLE WHETHER OIL NOT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL AGENCIES TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN GAME ALESCIVES OR

MOTOLVEHICLE COMPETITION FACILITIES. NOTE AND
DUST POLLUTION ALE RELEVENIT CONSIDERATIONS ALSO.

ANOTHER FRIMAN CONCERN OF MINE IS THE REECONITION OF THE RIGHTS AND CULTURAL VANUES OF THE JUNIOR NOT PEPULES OF THE ENTIRE RESONACE AKEA MNOCK CONSIDERATION HERE. I WEWN YOUR STATED MISCENCEPTION; REPLECTED THROUGHOUT THE DRAFT, THAT THE "TRADITIONAL USES OF THE PUBLIC LANDS... [INCLUDE]... LIVESTOCK GRAZINA, MINUSEAL GUITE, AND LANDS ACTIONS" AS A LUDICROUS REDEFINITION OF THE WOLD "TRADITIONAL". I DON'T FEEL THAT ENDOIGH ATTENTION TO THE LONG STAUDING COLITURAL VALUES OF THE AREA IS GIVEN AND WILL BLANDERE BELOW.

FINALLY AS FAR AS TRANSMISSION UNTE CORLIDORS
ARE CONCEINED, FAR TOO MANY ALZEADY EXIST.
THE RESOURCE AREA SIROLD NOT CONTINUE TO BE
REDUCED TO ONE BLOAD CORLIDOR. FOR THE
TRANSFER OF PUTOMOSILES; WARER, AND ELECTRINS.
AND THE BLM SHOULD NOT BE PARTICUL TO THIS
CRIME WHOM ITS RESPONSIBILITIES HE MODE CLOSEN
WITH THE HEALTH AND INFERTIN OF THE RESOURCE
AREA THAN WITH THE SECONDARY UNUMINES DESIRES
AND WHINS OF DISTRICT WAS AND CENTRES.

MOLE SPECIFICAUS, I HAVE A NUMBER OF CONCORUS I WITH THE DEAPT MANAGEMENT PLAN, I AM UNCOMPORTABLE WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, ACTIONS THAT CALL FOR THE LEMMONA: OF DECADENT VEGETATION OR THE HARVEST OF "SPECIFIC UVE TREES TO MEET MANAGEMENT GOALS. AND I MOST SPECIFICALLY

IWOULD OBJECT TO THE CHEMICAL CONTROL OF 3760 ACRES OF SHAEBRUSH IN ADOBE VALLEY. TO A LESSEL DEGREE, I AM ALSO UNCOMFORTABLE WITH PLAWS TO PROVIDE ARTIFICIAL WATER SOURCES FOR POPULAR GAME SPECIES SUCH AS MULE DEEL AND QUAIL WHEN THIS IS DONE DRIMARILY TO PLOVINE FOR THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF SOB FEW ILINIVIDUALS. AND I AM ALSO SOME WHAT UNICOMEDITARY F WITH PLANS THAT ARE PROPOSED TO SWHAMICE THE HABITATS OF AND FOR CERTAIN INTRODUCED SPECIES WHETHER THEY BE THE WILD HOUSE, BONUEL, ASIAN CRESTED WHEAT GRASS, CHUKAK, OR THE ELKFOR WHATEVER ENDO. IS IT RIGHT TO PLLOW MANNY NATIVE SPECIES, DOME IN ENDANGENED OR THREATEURD CONDITION, TO LAWGUISH ON SMALL RESERVES UNDER INTENSIVE MANUAGEMENT SCENARIOS WHILE WON-NATIVE SPECIES ARE ENCOURAGED ?

REPASE DON'T MISJUDGE MY VIEWS AS SIMPLY REPETIONALLY OR ENTITED UNFOUNDED. MY ANCESTED WHE THE LANGUAGE MAD MINUTED WHO SETTLED THE GOLD-RUSH SIERLAS. MY FAMILY DEPLATED AN ACTUAL APPLICATION ENSURES IN PLEMENDHING THE CHEMICAL CONTROL ANSTRALA OF OUR TIMES , AND I HAVE BEEN A GAME HUNTERL AND EVEN AT OUE TIME LARGE MOTES OUR O'CESENTS!

IN THE IMMEDIATE ALEA OF IN HOME I AM DEPAY CONCERNIED ALOW THE CLATEL MOUNTAIN MEEA PLOPOSED FOR. A. C.E.C. DESIGNATION. I HOPE THAT THIS UNIQUE MOUNTAIN AND ITS ADJACENT BLIM LANDS ARE GUEW THE MOST COMPLETE PROTECTION FROM FURTHER DECREADATION. CULTURAL

WALLES ARE IMPORTANT. ARTIFACTS FROM MANN ELLAS ABOUND AND AND INFONSIVE BUT RESPECTFUL INVENTORY OF SUCH RESOURCES IS IMPERATIVE. GULTHERLYDICE THE HEALTH AND DIVERSITY OF WEGETATION ON THIS MOUNTAIN DESECUE SPECIAL ATTENTION, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ALL LIVESTOCK GRAZING AWO MINIEUAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE DIS ALLOWED. THE GEOLOGICAL VALUES ARE I WOULD HOPE THAT SELF EVIDOUT. PRIMATIVE. NORTHOTORIZED OPPORTUNITIES WOULD PREDOMINATE IN ANY PLAN FOR THE ATLICA. THE INTRODUCTION OF CHUKAR GAMEVAIRDS WOULD DIRECTLY CONFLICT WITH THE UNIQUE VALUES OF THIS ATLEA BY ESTABLISHING FIREARM USE, AND ALSO ADD THE MANUALEMENT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INTRODUCED . WON-NATIVE SPECIES.

DUCE AGAIN I CANNOT DUCKEMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING CULTURAL VALUES OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE FOREFRONT OF YOUR RANNING FORMAT RATITED THAN RELEGATING THE WEEDS OF THESE REDALE TO THE EWD SOMEWHELE AFTER VISUAL RESOURCES, MULE DEER, AND LUESTOCK. ALSO IT IS SHAMEFUL THAT SUCH HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES AS THOSE REPORTEENTEEN AT BODIE STORE PARK SHOULD RELEIVE SO MUCH ATTENTION COMPARED TO THE RELATIVELY (MI) LEVEL OF CONCERN SHOWN FOR THE TRADITIONS, LIFESTYLES AND HISTORY OF NATIVE PAMERICANUS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN THE BODIE STATE PACK SERVES TO SHOWCASE THE MENTALITY AND IMPLEMENT OF THE WHOLESALE DEVASTATION OF NOT ONLY THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BUT THE SOCIETIES THAT LIVED SO ELOQUENTLY WITHIN IT. I RECOMEN THAT ANY AND ALL INTERPRETIVE SIGNING OF

HISTORIC SITES MAKE MENTION OF THIS DEPLOCABLE PART. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE UNTOUTHFUL AND A LAMENTABLE EXERCISE IN THE PURSUIT OF PARTS I.

ALSO I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'L COMMUNICATION TIMES WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ALE WOT ENTINEY GOOD, BUT THAT YOU WENT OPEN TO THEIR CONCERUS "WHENEVER THEY ARE LOICED." IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, THAT SOMEONE BUTAKS INTO YOUR HOME, SMASHES YOUR POSSESSIONS, SLAPS YOU TO THE FLOOR, AND ON THEIR WAY OUT. THE DOOR SAYS, "CALL IF YOU WEED ANNITHING." THE BLM SHARES THIS BURDEN WITH ALL OF IS WHOSE GOVERNMENT CREATED THE AGENCY. RESPECT SHOULD BE OFCERED AWD WOT JUST ADVIGUTISED. LAND DISPOSALS FOR REGELIATION EXPANSION IS GOOD. CONTINUED, IF NOT EXCLUSIVE ARCESS TO HOT SPRINGS THROUGHOUT THE MEDIA COULD BE CONSIDERIED. DISON WUT HARVESTING IS IMPORTANT AS WOOLD BE CONTROLLED BURIUS OF WILLOW STANDS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BASKET MAKING MATGUALS. EXAMPLES AGE NUMBROUS. AS FOR INTERPLETIVE AWO EDUCATIONIAL CACILITIES THE PAINTE- SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER ON WEST LINE STREET IN BISHOP ALREADY EXISTS, AND FUNDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CENTEL TO EXPAND AND IMPLIE THEIR PROGRAM. AS FOR PROTECTION OF SITES I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT OUR LEGADERS WOULD SERVE HUND DEOS OF THOUSANDS OF MEN TO PROTECT THE PETROLEUM INTENCETS OF THE OUTEN OF ENGLAND WHILE PRODUDING ONLY ONE LANGTER TO PATROL A LAST AREA OF THELL EWOULING VALUES WITHIN OUR OWN BORDERS

> BEST WISHES, Bur Williams

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 83 (Burr Williams)

- 83-1,2) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 83-3) See Appendix 8 of the draft RMP and the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 83-4) The reference to 'decadent vegetation' concerns a large area in the vicinity of Trench Carryon (Granite Mountain management area) containing a monotypic stand of sagebrush with very little or no understory vegetation. As wildlife habitat, the area has limited value. Increasing vegetation diversity would improve wildlife species variety and/or abundance. Removing live trees would be permitted in order to increase understory vegetation diversity, as an example, in not more than 56% of the available pinyon-juniper vegetation type.

Chemical control of sagebrush in Adobe Valley is not a final plan decision.

Decisions to locate additional (artificial) water sources in some management areas are designed to replace natural springs or other surface water lost due to man-induced or natural causes.

Except for the tule elk, decisions will not be directed toward habitat enhancement for non-native species.

83-5) The final RMP prescribes Crater Mountain for ACEC status, Chukar are <u>not</u> planned for introduction in the area. Other subjects you have described would be addressed in the uccoming ACEC activity plan. 83-6,7) Indian communities are but one of the many groups who have "traditionally" used the Public Lands. We have coordinated with the recognized tribal governments, as well as asking for comment from individuals. Whenever a concern has been voiced, we have attempted to be responsive (e.g. identifying lands for reservation expansion, pinyon nut harvesting decisions, continued access to hot springs, etc.).

Funding for the Cultural Center has been discussed, but is not a decision in this RMP.



TOM BRADLEY Mayor

Ceremission MICHAEL J. GAGE, President RICK J. CARUSO, Vice President ANGEL M. ECHEVARRIA DOROTHY GREEN MARY D. NICHOLS JUDITH K. DAVISON, Secretory

JANNEL W. WALRES, General Memoger and Orief Digible LDON A. COTTON, Assistant General Memoger - Power JAMES F. WICKSER, Assistant General Memoger - Water NORMAN L. RUEHRENG, Assistant General Memoger - E NORMAN J. POWERS, Chief Phemoid Officer

January 17, 1991

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Comments on EIS and Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan (BRMP)

This is to provide comments by the Water System of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Department) regarding anticipated actions by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which may affect certain aspects of the Department's land management in Invo and Mono Counties.

The enclosed comments address the major categories in the BRMP dealing with watershed withdrawals; land ownership; grazing; desired plant community; vegetation management; wild and scenic rivers; scenic byways; threatened/endangered species introduction and recovery plans; year-long or seasonal habitat protection; and the Inyo/Los Angeles Groundwater Pumping Agreement.

With regard to watershed withdrawals, the Department has serious concerns with your recommendation to lift the withdrawals on 600,000 acres of BLM lands. The City of Los Angeles has long relied on the withdrawal designation for protection of its watershed lands.

A few years ago, after much effort, a Task Force representing BLM, the Department, and Inyo and Mono Counties developed draft language for proposed legislation on watershed withdrawals which would offer protection to each party. I believe that the jointly developed concepts and language should have been included in the BRMP under the discussion of alternatives, and should have been recommended under the preferred alternative. The Department cannot support a plan that arbitrarily lifts withdrawals on lands important to the protection of Los Angeles' water supply. Additional discussion regarding this issue is included in our enclosed comments.

Water and Power Conservation . . . a way of life

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Mr. Michael A. Perquson

January 17, 1991

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BRMP. If you have any questions concerning our remarks, my staff and I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

- 2 -

Sincerely,

James F. Wicks chow Assistant General Manager - Water

Enclosure

c: D. D. Buchholz

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER WATER SYSTEM'S

General Comments

The format of the Draft RRMP is somewhat difficult to follow and appears to lack quantitative supporting data for proposed actions or documentation of methods to attain certain goals. Consequently, rather than specifics, many of the Department's comments will be in the form of questions or concerns about the following major categories: watershed withdrawals; land ownership; grazing; desired plant community; expectation management; wild and scenic rivers; scenic byways; year-long or seasonal behits production and recovery plans; year-long or seasonal behits production and recovery plans;

Watershed Withdrawals

84-1

Pederal leads under the administration of RLM were withdrawn from entry and settlement to protect the watershed and water supply of the City of Los Angeles in the 1930s through enactment of Congressional legislation and Executive Orders.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directed BLM to review withdrawn lands to determine if the original purpose of the withdrawals was still valid. To that end, between 1984 and 1986 a Watershed withdrawal Task Force was established to assist in this review. This Task Force was cometable from BLM, the Department, and Inyo and Mono Countries results.

During the course of that review, BMM established criteria that was to be used in evaluating the Department's justification for retaining withdrawals on 11 specifically identified geographic areas. The Department was receptive to lifting the withdrawal status on over 300,000 acres of land. The Department also presented detailed rationale on the necessity to retain almost two-thirds of the land under withdrawal because the lands were identified as necessary for continued watershed protection.

In 1986, the Task Force developed language which was to be incorporated into proposed withdrawal legislation and supported by the parties. In addition to lifting withdrawals on previously mentioned acreage, the proposed legislation would also lift certain withdrawals on lands identified by each Courty which The proposed legislation additional propers and urban expansion. The proposed legislation additional properties of the permittent, and the affected county.

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The draft legislation has been "on hold" since 1986; however, in the proposed Inyo/Los Angeles Water Agreement, Inyo County has restated its support for that legislation.

In BLM's BRMP Alternative I-Present Management, withdrawals would be retained on 600,000 acres within the Plan boundaries. However, Alternatives II, III, and the preferred alternative propose the revocation of all waters

The Department recognises that requests are received by BLM to exchange or dispose of lands for legitimate reasons. In the past, the Department has been willing to cooperate with the and this cooperation will continue in the future. The stated rationale that it takes a long period of time for BLM to resolve encroachments or to effect land exchanges because of the withdrawn status is not sufficient justification for changing the apply for its 15 million residents. City of Los Angeles' water supply for its 3.5 million residents.

In summary, we believe there is little justification in the BRM for the litting of all withdrawals. The concept of the Task Porce Plan, developed over several years of effort, should be included in the discussion, and should be recommended under the preferred alternative. The Plan would afford protection to the City of los Angeles and provide benefits to all parties.

Land Ownership

84-1

cont.

The BRWP is not specific in identifying Department lands which BUM desires to acquire through purchase or exchange, while the Department may entertain certain exchanges which are mutually beneficial, it is difficult to make specific comments unless the actual parcels of land are identified. They compend to the part of the part o

Grazing

84-2

Approximately 250,000 acres of Department property are used for livestook grazing. In most cases, these uses have continued since the land was acquired from private property owners, and represent the livelihood of more than 60 ranching families to this day. This use of City lands is important because it represents a nonintensive multiple use of Los Angeles' watershod, and also because at least 75 percent of the ranch lands are left open Department lands used by the same lessees, changes in Buth and Department lands used by the same lessees, changes in Edw.

- 0002.0.0 -

policies may adversely affect our mutual lessees and the use of City lands.

For example, reductions in—or elimination of—grazing on BLM permits may result in increased grazing pressure on Department lands. In areas such as the South Inyo Management Area (MA) Rapes 85-87), the proposed action prohibits livestock grazing because there is not enough forage in the area for grazing to be practical. It is difficult to evaluate this statement because there is no data presented to document vegetation actions of the proposed action. Sould the Department be requested to fence its lands to prevent livestock from encroaching on BLM lands as a result of this action?

In the Long Valley MA, it is suggested that controlling early season grazing could improve sage grouse nesting populations. It has been our experience that livestock do not normally graze upland areas until late in the season, after the grouse nesting period. A study by Clint McCarthy (U.S. Forest Service) affecting some grouse populations in Long Valley.

The Department believes there is insufficient basis for the proposed action and asks, therefore, to be consulted on any proposals by BLM affecting grazing management on BLM and adjacent Department lands.

Desired Plant Community (DPC):

84-3

cont.

84-4 management areas. What are these based upon? range site concepts? potential plant communities for soil types? It appears that the DFCs are blased in favor of wildlife habitat for selected species, with little—if any—concern for sensitive plant habitat, waterahed management, or livestock use.

goals at various sites, but there is no accompanying information or suggested methods to be used to accomplish these qoals

Vegetation Management

Similar to the discussion on DPCs, references are made regarding proposed vegetation management, such as managing deer winter range to provide at least 70 percent of the bitterbrush in mature or younger age classes and to provide enough annual growth to support 5,400 deer, etc. (Page 82).

Again, no data is provided on present conditions or methods to be used to accomplish the proposed action. A management plan should include such information. The apparent bias in

- 0003.0.0 -

favor of wildlife is also evident on Pages 157, 159, and 162, whereas there is no mention of the occurrence of sensitive plant species or candidate species and their requirements.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

84-5

While the first two steps of the process to classify of certain candidate streams have been completed, and some may not be considered valid candidates, the Department does not support such classification on the portions of Not, Not, Independence, Slough, based on the rationers Department lands, or at fish Slough, based on the rationers of the which to participate in subsequent discussions on the subject.

Scenic Byways

8+-6 byway classification, and the SRMP seeks the cooperation of the Department and U.S. Forest Service in joint designations. How does this classification compare with the seenic highway designation used by Caltrans on portions of U.S. Highway 3957 Mby is nation used by Caltrans on portions of U.S. Highway 3957 Mby is nation which were not because the compared to the compared

Introduction of Threatened or Endangered Species and Species Recovery Plans

The BRMP suggests that such recovery plans be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game-but it does not include the Department. Most areas suitable for such activities are located would probably make use of Department lands as well. The Department requests to be included in any such planning efforts.

Year-long or Seasonal Protection of Habitats

Several references are made in the RMMP to seasonal rection of sage grouse leks, year-long protection of rule olk ving areas, or protection of sensitive plant and wildlife Labitats. What type of protection is being proposed, and how would such protection he accomplished or regulated? Would adjacent landowners be requested to fence property boundaries? Are the areas to be protected from livestock, vehicles, foot traffic, or any combination of these? The BRMW should provide a more

- 0004.0.0 -

detailed discussion of methods or recommendations for accomplishing this protection, as well as state the need for active involvement of adjacent land managing agencies.

Inyo/Los Angeles Groundwater Pumping Agreement

The BRMP states on Page 129 that the Agreement between Invo County and the Department may affect riparian habitat if "surface water and vegetation is impacted by lowered water tables." It is also stated, on Pages 191-192, that continued water export is expected to "lower water tables and result in a subsequent loss of forage quality and quantity," and that a slight to moderate negative impact to tule elk forage resources would occur. It is evident from these statements that the Agreement has not been correctly understood. The overall goal of the Invo/Los Angeles Agreement is to "manage the water resources within Inyo County to avoid certain described changes in vegetation and to cause no significant effect on the environment which cannot be acceptably mitigated while providing a reliable supply of water for export to Los Angeles and for use in Inyo County." In other words, the purpose of the Agreement and Groundwater Management Plan is to avoid significant impacts to Owens Valley vegetation, including tule elk forage. Such statements, as mentioned above, along with several of the actions proposed by BLM, appear to be inconsistent with Page 28 of the BRMP, which states that "considerable effort has been expended to assure this plan is consistent with existing and probable future plans of adjacent jurisdictions."

- 0005.0.0 -

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 84 (LADWP Water System)

- 84-1) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 84-2) See the general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 84-3) A grazing analysis of the southern Inyo Mountains was conducted in 1985. The analysis found most of the area unusable due to slope, forage, and water and eliminated all but 40 acres of rance with a final grazing capacity of 3 AUMs.

Livestock drifting off LADWP lands and onto public lands would be in trespass. It is BLM's intention to work with LADWP and their lessee concerning this potential problem.

Typically, the operators have been licensed with turn-out dates as follows: Long Valley 5/1; Hot Creek 5/16; Wilfred Creek 6/1.

The BLM recognizes that the Inyo and Mono county livestock operators have multi-agency operations and that some BLM proposals would affect Department lands. The BLM will consult with LADWP on these proposals.

84-4) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).

A section has been added under "mule deer" in Chapter 3 to describe the current condition of bitterbrush on deer winter range. Methods for accomplishing bitterbrush goals on deer winter range would be covered in action plans, such as wildlife habitat manacement plans.

Appropriate sections referencing candidate plant species locations, populations or habitat conditions and related impacts are provided in Chapter 3 of the final RMP.

84-5) Your comments regarding opposition to eligibility of the candidate creeks on City of Los Angeles' lands have been noted and will be incorporated in the upcoming suitability studies. We will add your organization to our mailing list of parties interested in the studies and keep you informed of the program.

- 84-6) Scenic highway classifications appear to have more restrictions regarding signing, etc. The Bureau is interested in the Manzanar and Owenyo Roads because this route provides an alternative opportunity for motorists to observe and appreciate public lands in the Inyo Mountains. This alternative route highlights the majesty of the range more vividly than U.S. Highway 395. It would improve public awareness of Bureau and other agency lands. Some low profile signing might be used to interpret area features. No special restrictions are placed on other agency lands designated as part of a scenic byway. The Bureau would work closely with the Department to ensure that the designation would primarily enhance the public's recreation experience without changes to existing management.
- 84-7) The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will be included in coordination of species recovery plans and project implementation where Department lands could provide suitable conditions for species recovery.
- 84-8) The seasonal and yearlong protection categories require that no discretionary actions which would adversely affect a target resource would be allowed. Discretionary actions are anything for which a permit or other decision document is required. Adverse effect would be determined in an environmental analysis process. These decisions apply to BLM administered land only. Cooperation would be sought from other land managing entities to prevent adverse effects when actions would overlap management jurisdiction.
- 84-9) The decisions and other narrative in the RMP which are directed at the export of water from the Owens Valley by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were written prior to the draft Inyo County - LADWP groundwater agreement, EIR and Green Book being published. Your concerns with this topic have been considered in the final plan.



January 14, 1990

Mr. Michael A. Perguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93524-2498



Re: Bishop RMP-DEIS

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

This letter represents the comments of the California State Park Rangers Association relative to your deaft "Bishop Resource Nanagement Plan and Bruiromental Impact Statement." Ne've requested our attorneys to submit comments separately on the legal aspects of your document. Our association's concerns with this document revolves around the area identified as Thote Bruir Deals of the State District Park identified as Thote Boal. Our manylaps has segreption to the product of the California Ca

It is importative that any management actions identified in your Res-DEIS for the Bodie Boal area be supportive and consistent with State Park System goals for Bodie S.H.P., Indeed, your document quotes "Becreation 2000, A Strategic Plan for California," that a "super objective in Bodie Boul is adjacent public land uses compatible with State Park System sunagement philosophy." Your preferred alternative option for the area, while contended the Bodie Bod. The state of the Bodie Bodie State State Park the Bodie Bod.

The operall goals of maintaining the integrity of Bodie National Mistoric Landmark and designation of the Notice Bull Aces of Critical Navironmental Concern should be emaintained and adhered to. Nothing less than a complete mineral withdrawal in Bodie Bod is needed if the BMD is to achieve the above goals. Further, it is assembleat latt but the MIA include the following steps (previously submitted by CSRRA to you) in its management of the Bodie Bod aros:

Promoting Professionalism in California State Parks



califoroia state park rangers association

- Most importantly, withdraw from mineral entry all of the lands in the Bodie Bowl;
- Carefully monitor all current mineral exploration for compliance with all rules and guidelines; prohibit any additional exploration without public notice and hearing:
- Prepare a thorough and complete inventory of the cultural and natural features prior to any new exploration which is not covered by existing penalts;
- 4. Work with the National Park Service to develop a new and more comprehensive boundary for the National Historic Landmark, a boundary which will include all excavations and structural ruins related to historic mining activity, as well as the right-of-way of the railroad that connected Bodie with Mono Lake;
- 5. It is critical that policy be established that where mining on any valid claims cannot be prohibited, to stringently condition such permits in such a namer that there will be (a) absolutely no impainment of the natural, cultural, or recreational resource values now present in the Bodie Bowl, and (b) no increase in any risk to public health and safety:
- 6. To immediately apply to the Departement of the Interior for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Pand for nonise necessary to purchase those interest in private lands in the Bodie Boal Area which would be sufficient to prohibit mining activity of any sort. Such funds could come from the BM national apportance of the BM and th

The mining section of your document discussed econosic impacts of the four alternative management scenarios. Figures ranged from the creation of 500 jobs and an increase of \$2 billion to Mono County's tax base in the most "development" oriented alternative, to erachation of the above figures by 25 jobs and 31 billion respectively) in the most "protective" alternatives, but 15 just be 15 billion for credibility; what were their under the contractive above figures test the inspiration for credibility; what were their under the contractive productive pour document's objectivity.

While discussing economic impacts, it is worthy to note that, according to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, a withdrawn of the actual 5,946 eares of ERM land in the Bodile Book would amount to only .299% of the total county area and .328% of all publically commod land in the county, Bodile State Ristoric Park, with an annual visitation of over 200,000 brings in needed tourist dollars due to the authentic setting maintained to this date.



california state park rangers association

The California State Park Rangers Association thanks you for the opportunity to comment on your document. If you have any questions about our information or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address.

Sincerely.

Res Jo Slove

Rick LeFlore, Vice President

Atta · ents

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 85 (California State Park Rangers Association)

- 85-1-5) These concerns are addressed in the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- 85-6) This is not a decision to be made within the RMP.
- 85-7) Please see response 54-4.

Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 7B7 North Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

January 16, 1991

Dear Bureau of Land Management:

The following are my comments on the Draft Bishop Resource Hanagement Plan and Environmental Impact Statement deted September 1990. I did read this document, focusing on three of the northern management areas. I found the document interesting reading, learned new information about the area, and will keep the draft plan as a reference source. Reading it also helped me to get some insight into the way the BLH approaches and interprets its guardianship of public lands. I mostly commented on areas where I recreate and areas near my home.

BRIDGEPORT VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

86-1

Travertine Not Springs-Seologically descinating, secret to the Paiute, scenic, and a significant recreation resource, this area should have the utmost protection. Hanging to protect threatened and dendegered species habitat, even of the expense of losing some recreational use. Also, it is disconcerting to be using the pools and have gunfire small positions of painting in this ACEC would be a good safety move. I support alternative 5. Natural Resource

6.2

| Wild and Scenic Rivers-Green Creek, Virginia and Dog Creek are being considered for this status, portions thereof. In general, these portions are scenic, home to trout, and greatly enhance the summer compers wilderness experience. Privated lands could be purchased in the river corridor, to increase the milles of streams paralected.

BODIE HILLS MANAGEMENT AREA-I fevor alternative 3.

Wild and Scenic Rivers-I am pleased to see portions of these creeks included. Biological diversity will be enhanced , especially with the

reintroduction of Laborton cutthroat trout (listed species-threatened status) into these rivers.

Copper Mountain ACEC-Alternative 3 includes Copper Mountain as an ACEC. I favor this as visually, Copper Mountain stands out clearly in the Eastern Sierran landscape, especially for those visiting the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It is a dramatic backdrop for the western wall of the Mono Basin. Because of its inaccessibility for the average hiker and driver and its close proximity to Yosemite National Park, it is bu geography, valuable wildlife habitat. There is mixed flora, ranging from shrubbery for mule deer to hide in, to open areas for raptors to hunt in. Alternative three would protect the natural resources of Copper Mountain by designating it an ACEC," in hopes of protecting habitat for mule deer, mountain beaver and other species of concern." (pg. 64) It would also prohibit livestock grazing on the Copper Mountain allotment, in order to enhance wildlife habitat.

Bodie/Galactic Open Pit Mine-I recommend that BLM, withdraw all of 84-4 its lands adjacent to Bodie State Park from mineral development. 1. The mining operation will be a major disturbance affecting the experience of park visitors.

a. Earth moving trucks (many times the size of a passenger vehicle), roaring around the bluff area creating noise, dust and possible ground shaking.

b. Even if the pit is 20 acres in size, this is an incredibly massive hole in the ground, severely affecting the visual resource of Bodie State Park.

c. Frasion problems.

d. The bluff is the backdrop for those experiencing Bodie and photographing it. With the mining operation there will be loud, clanky modern mining machinery and scarred hillside affecting the visual resource

2. Wildlife Impacts

a. Cuanide heap leaching ponds will be used. These ponds will attract birds and cuanide is a deadly toxin for these mobile creatures. "Because Bodie is situated only ten miles from Mono Lake, a principal stopover along the Pacific Flyway, some wildlife experts fear that migrating birds could be poisoned at the leachate ponds." (Sierra, January/February 1991, pg 13B)

b. Mono Lake is the second largest rookery for California Gulls. They do range to Bodie and will be attracted to the ponds. The ponds will have

86-4 to be covered carefully and thoroughly with protective netting. Grazing in the Bodie Hills-

86-5

Alternative 3 cuts back on grazing allotments. This is the best alternative for wildlife enhancement.

1. Cutting back on grazing allotments will improve habitat for wildlife. 2. Riparian areas would be better habitat for native fish populations,

offering improved recreation opportunities for people who fish.

3. Improvement of the Pronghorn Anteloge habitat. Your document states on page 127, "Good quality habitat is limited to areas near perennial water sources that produce wetland/marsh type vegetation important to lactating females with fawns. "

4. Aspen Communities-On page 132, you state . " the primary damage to espens groves is the loss of most understory vegetation from livestock grazing."

5. Sage grouse would benefit with less grazing in the Bodie Hills.

86-6

Sage Grouse-These turkey-sized birds will receive more protection under alternative 3. Where possible their wintering grounds, leks and nesting areas should be protected from overgrazing by cows and sheep. The riparian areas that grouse use should be fenced off from sheep and cows somehow. Lek areas should be signed for no off-road vehicle use. On page 189, alternative 3 states, "Sage grouse populations would increase 15% through improvement in key habitat quality despite impacts from locatable minerals and livestock grazing." I support this alternative 3, as it offers the most improvement in sage grouse population numbers. Hopefully, BLM could set a good example for private landholders to follow in its protection of the sage grouse. With this type of cooperation the sage grouse could benefit manyfold.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN MA-Alternative 3 addresses my concerns.

1. Land disposal adjacent to and north of Mono City.

a. This area provides a visual resource for those driving on Hwu 395. 86-7 in the Mono Basin. Building a sub-division on these BO acres would cause a visual blight very close to the Mono Basin Scenic Area.

b. These BO acres act as a greenbelt between Mono City and HWY 167. If Conway Ranch is built, this green belt will be very important.

c. With the probable development of Conway Ranch, the Mono Lake mule deer population will be losing many acres of their wintering grounds

and migration corridores. The lands north of Mono City are used by deer for movement east and west. Bucks rest in the sagebrush cover here

d. Sage grouse winter on these lands also, as well as the lands northof Hwy 167 and Conway Ranch properties.

e. I have also seen pronghorn antelope 100 yards from these 80 acres. Two were seen in the summer of 1986.

Grazing-The sheep that greze north of Mono City elso trample the ture in this area. These turfs (calcium carbonate) towers were formed during the last Lee age, when thono Lake was at or near its high stand of 7200 feet above see level, approximately 12,000 years ago. As there is turf-throughout this Bith grazing allotment, it would be difficult to ferice it. To protect it, I would recommend the eventual phasing out of grazing on these BO acres.

Hono Basin National Forest Scenic Area-Since the Forest Service is planning on phosing out all grazing in the Scenic Area (pg201), it follows that BLM could consider a similar phosing out on lands bordering the Scenic Area. This would serve to protect the Scenic area from inevitable allotment tresposs and help to create a buffer zone around the Scenic Area to enhance scenic values, wildlife habitat, and wildlife.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREA

6-7

ont.

36.8

86-10

Viewshed-Henry who visitors Bodie, take the pewed rood in and leeve on the 10 miles of dirt rood, heading south toward Hono Leke. Hono Leke slawly jurioles, the white Hountains bahind and Cowtract in between. The Granite Hountain Honogement area is extremely important as a visual-backdrop north, east and southeast of Hono Leke. Granite Peak can be seen from the town of Lee Vining and the new Forest Hono Lake Visitor Center, overlooking Hono Leke.

Recreation-I quote Alternative 3, on page 180, "Under this alternative, Bureau lands would attract more primery destination users than in Alternatives I and 2. They would also receive spillover use from expected_visitor increases on nearby USFS lands......The Dureau would falley is greater role in regionwide recreation management." I think this Alternative most aptly represents an occurate picture of the trends for the Mono Bosin National Forest Scenic Area and the Buth lands bordering

7

86-10 cont.

them. The Mono Bosin's visitation is nearing 200,000 per year and is sure to rise, because of its close proximity to Yosemite National Park (one of the Tive most visited National Parks in the U.S.) and the San Francisco bey area. Therefore, regardless of which alternative is followed visitation will be on the rise and needs to be addressed.

86-11

Visual Resource Management-Alternative 3 best addresses the trends.
 a. vehicle use limited-no off-road vehicle use. East of Mono Lake, there

a. vehicle use limited-no off-road vehicle use. East of Mono Lake, ther are massive mounds of ice-age tufa with ancient lake-bed sediments exposed, very susceptable to off-road vehicle damage. The Sierra Safari are on a route system, I presume they stay on the route.

b. Restrict mineral development with a one mile buffer around the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

c. Acquire scenic easements in the Cedar Hills and Mono Basin areas.

2. Wildlife habitat improvement

a. Yearlong protection of Jeffrey Pine at Dry Creek

 Protect from grazing in Larkin Lake area to encourage waterfowl nesting and use.

d. "Inventory sage grouse wintering areas and strutting grounds." pg 68.
 e. "Protect and enhance raptor nesting and roosting sites in the Dry

Creek and Granite Mountain areas," pg 6B. I believe Prairie Falcons use this area, nesting on U.S.F.S. nearby in Wet Canyon.

 Protect Adobe Valley from overgrazing and manage DPC's for wetlands and waterfowl habitat.

5

EAST-WEST TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

| I am in favor of Alternative 3, because it will meen no ection. No east48-4/ set corridor would be designated as o transmission line corridor. These
lines make roads through otherwise roadless areas, they disturb the plat
life and animal life, and they are unslapitly. All well-lift cities need to
take an environmental approach to electricity, and not be so consumptive.
Los Angleies seems to be bright enough already.

WILDERNESS STILDY AREAS

I think it would serve the public best, if these areas are treated as Wilderness Areas until Congress decides which or if all will be made into BIM Wilderness.

BODIE MANAGEMENT AREA

86-15 Rettlesmake Buich-IT Conway Ronch gets developed, it is conceivable that there will be a lot of use of Rettlesmake Buich as or recreation area. Hotorized travel should stay on roads in the Guich area. Even though this area shows the scars of mining, it still retains much value. It is remincent of the Alabama Hills. It is an important part of the viewshed for Hwy 355, south from the Conway Summit Thono Lake Caltrans Overlook. It has historical value as being the place of Thono Countly's first gold strike. "In 1659 miners founded Thonoville, Mono's first town." (Mono Lake Guidebook, David Geines, Kutsavi Press, Lee Vining, 1981, jg 4)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to put my responses to the RMP Draft on paper for you.

Sincerelu.

Debby Porker P:0.Box 33 Lee Vining, CA 9354d1 RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 86 (Debby Parker)

- 86-1) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 86-2) Please see response 69-7.
- 86-3) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 86-4) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- 86-5) Alternative 3 for the Bodie Hills MA would have a significant negative impact to livestock grazing and would enhance wildlife habitat. The Preferred Alternative (4) will also enhance wildlife habitat but will be less impacting to grazing. In the Bodie Hills, there is a need to improve livestock distribution. Changes in distribution will improve riparian areas and critical wildlife habitat.
- 86-6) We appreciate your concern for improved management of sage grouse habitat in the Bodie Hills management area. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 86-7) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 86-8) Thank you for your information. The BLM is not aware of significant sheep grazing impacts to tufa towers; we will assess this area for such impacts. Although sheep do graze around the remnants of old towers, natural weathering may be a more significant factor their destruction.
- 86-9) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.

- 86-10) The Projections of Future Development and Use indicate that all the alternatives will experience some spillover use which would increase recreation activity on public land. It is assumed that the Bureau's proactive program management under Alternatives 3 and 4 would lead to higher increases because public land features would attract more primary destination visitors.
- 86-11) The final RMP prescribes that all vehicle use be limited to designated roads and trails. This includes all special recreation events, which are monitored closely. Your comment regarding the one mile buffer has been noted and considered for our final RMP. The final RMP proposes acquisition of scenic easements or private lands in the Mono Basin area.
- 86-12) We appreciate your concern for improvement of wildlife habitat. Your comments have been considered in the final plan.
- 86-13) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 86-14) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 86-15) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.

MONO COUNTY MINING COMMITTEE

Box 684 BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517-0684

Chairman
W. Jack Clark
Welsh Engineering
Secremy-Tressorer
Mark A. Demuth
MADCON Consultation

Mark A. Demuth
MADCON Consultation
Services

CHARTER MEMBERS

Housestake Mining Company

Kennecott Exploration
MEMBERS
Arizona Gold Inc.
Athana Gold Com.

Bodie Consolidated Mining Company CCMC* CoCa Mines Inc.

J.S. Cain Co.

Newmont Exploration Ltd.

Normala Exploration, Inc.

Pierce Dolling Company

Red Rock Gold Mine Republic Resources Structural Industrial Minerals, Inc. U.S. Parnice Company

Western Gold Exploration and Mining Company, Ltd. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS W. Jack Clark Don Deem Michael Dell'Orto

Mark A. Demuth

January 15, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson

Mr. Michael Ferguson Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Comments on the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP)

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced DRMP, however, it is difficult to make specific comments on the document due to the vague manner in which proposed management of mineral resources is presented. Throughout the DRMP it is clear that public recreation proportunities will be enhanced on lands with existing valid mining daims. It is unclear as to what effect this management emphasis on enhanced recreation will have on the potential to develop mineral resources.

Certain statements in the DRMP indicate that a percent of the mineral deposits in the Resource-Area are currently economic to develop. Other conclusions indicate that some percent of these same deposits will be made uneconomic when environmental constraints are imposed by selecting one or another of the Alternatives (pages 92-113 and 197-198). With no public input, restricting subseral development by 1) an unspecified of the another of the Alternatives (pages 92-113 and 197-198). With no public input, restricting subseral provides dequate information apported by evidence, to allow the public to make informed decisions. The public can make no decisions concerning the validity of the DRMP. More informational provided and of the National Conference of the Pages of

Imposition of any of the proposed actions in the DRMP, such as establishing VRM I requirements, that have the potential to preclude development of unpartented mining claims has the potential to constitute a taking of private property rights under Texecutive Order L0280°. Therefore, before the DRMP can be finalized, the BLM must comply with that Executive Order and the "Automety General's Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings." Until the economic impacts of restricting mineral development are determined on a case-by-sea basis, the DRMP cannot be finalized.

Michael Ferguson Page 2

87-4 Considering the above mentioned faults and shortcomings of this DRMP, the Mono County Mining Committee (MCMC) hereby protests the document as presented. Further, the MCMC requests that another Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement be published with sufficient information for the public to make informed decisions on mineral management in the Bishop Resource Area.

w Jack Clark

W. Jack Clark, Chairman Mono County Mining Committee

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 87 (Mono County Mining Committee)

- 87-1,2,4) See general response for minerals, which addresses your concerns.
- 87-3) Establishing management goals does not constitute a *taking.*
 If we received a proposal, a taking assessment would be made at that time.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL MONO COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX II

JAMES S. REED
COUNTY COUNTS!
MEIL G. MICCARROLL
Assisted County Counts!

BRIDGEPORT CALIFORNIA 3517
TELEPHONE, (619) 932-7911
FAX: (619) 932-7145
MARING ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX 497

SENT VIA FAX 872-2894

January 17, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement -- Comments of Mono County

Dear Mike:

Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors regarding the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Scott Burns, the Mono County Planning Director has forwarded to you further comments of Mono County.

This Resolution is the exact Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors. We will provide you with a fully executed copy after it has been signed by the Chairman.

We look forward to working with you as the plan reaches its final adoption stages.

Yours very truly,

Dim

JAMES S. REED, County Counsel

JSR:shs Encl.

cc: Board of Supervisors Scott Burns 88-1



RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MONO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCERNING THE DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE BUREAU OF LAND HAMAGEMENT

MHERMAS, a very substantial portion of the lands of Mono County are in federal ownership and under the stemardship of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Manageeent ("BLM"); and,

WHEREAS, eany people utilizing lands in Mono County have to rights in BLM lands and rely upon BLM lands for their livelihood; and

MHEREAR, there is very little private land or tend otherwise under the jurisdiction of Mono County which can be utilized for economic development in a manner consistent with Mono County pianning policies; and.

WHINTERS. the BLM has compiled a draft "Blahop Resource Hanagement Plan and Environmental lepact Statement" dated Sept tember 1990 ("the draft Plan"), which sets forth praferred alternatives and policies for BLM lands within Mono County: and, the second of the statement of the

ic well-being of the citizens of None County; and,

HHEREAS, consistent with the protection of environmental,

cultural and open-space resources, the Plan provides for eulti
ple uses of EMM lands within None County, including agricultural

and recreational uses and sineral production; and

MHERERAS, where a potential use-promises significant ecomosic benefits to Mono County and its citizens, the final Plan
behold take care to recognize that use and dewrop environmental
policies which are consistent with such use, with Mono County
planning policies and with the protection of smyronesmit

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That agriculture and recreation and mineral production on federal lands are land uses which hietorically have
provided and should continue to provide a stable and diverse
concolc benefits to know County and are man

 That the curtailment of muitiple uses on lands under BLM stswardship in Mono County, or unfounded or unnecessary restrictions on the reseonable development of such uses, eay advarsaly affect the economy of the County.

-

24



3	which together have the potential for causing savere adverse effects to the economy of Mono County.	
4	 That these issues have been consumicated to verious eembars of the Board of Supervisors by persons who state that they will be seriously and adversely affected if the draft Plan 	
5		
6		
7	5. That hased on such t	eetisony, the Board of Supervisors enting policies set forth in the
8	dreft Plan eav not allow for the appropriate helance of uses on lands under BLM etemordship and, therefore, sey be incompetible with the policies and goele of land use planning and economic	
9		of land use planning and economic d the desires of its citizenry.
10		upervisors is concerned that the
11		
12		
13		upervisors pledges its assistance
14	to both the BLM and the eforesaid concerned citizens in recoiv- ing these issues and assisting the BLM in coordinating its	
15		
16	8. That the Board of Supervisore respectfully requests that the RLM, the citizens and eppropriete representatives of the County, seat forthwith for as long as is necessary to re- solve the issues reject herein in e setlefectory earner.	
17		
18	PASSED AND ADOPTED this	
19	by the following vote:	
20	AYES : NOES :	
21	ABSTAIN :	
22		
23	ATTEST:	
24	Rancy Welle Clerk of the Board	DAN PARANICK CHAIRMAN
25		BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
26		APPROVED AS TO FORM:
27		
28		JAMES S. REED
29		COUNTY COUNSEL
30		DATE:
31		
32	1	

 Based on public testisony, the draft Pien sey include eteteants concerning egricultural and sineral production, clong with proposed implementing policies, which here no besis RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 88 (Mono County Board of Supervisors - Resolution)

88-1) Your resolution has been considered. We have made every effort to incorporate public opinion in the formulation of the final decisions. While individual specific locations may not be managed to accommodate all potential activities (i.e. Bodie), our multiple-use mandate has been followed in the resource area as a whole (as an example, 97% of the resource area is open to mineral development).

The minerals and grazing portions of the RMP have been rewritten to clarify some inconsistencies in the draft. Your concerns have been addressed in the general Bodie response (p.5-5), the general Grazing response (p.5-11), and in responses to letter 55.



BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN Mike Perguson, Area M anager Burasu of Land Mangement Bishop, Calif.

Dear Hike Fergusen:

19-3

89-7

89-9

-an very concerned that your management plan for the Bishep/Saxtern Storra does not address all the problems and aspects of the area as compatible, as it might, Please weight as much as possible the followings points:

Why only minor changes in grasing practices? Much of the territory is

- 19-1 Me East-west powerline corridor is necessary, especially ing in the Wilderness Study grees/Soldier Caryon area. Alternative routs outside the Bishop Resource area are realizable.
- Proposed Milderness screege is inadequate with only 27,420 wilderness eres in the South Tyres, Pare should be in the South Inyes, Plus in other places such as the Granite Min, arms, Bodie Hills and Volcenic Tablaland.
- budly overgrased and has been for years, Stiegns and marging are especially vulnerable to grasing pressure and should be available from grasing.
- # "New-geme" species well as the targets of hunters should be protected and managed. What was you've done so far in this respect is great, but moste species should be included.
- No "watershed withdrawals". Kaep the existing ones, but no skittional ones.
- 39-6

 gupport mineral location withdrawals for the entire gouth Inyon Management area to prevent more speculative mining theirill some the Land and pollute the water,
 - No trail is necessary in the Slinkard Vallay ACESC. Nost visitions would prefer a preinitive experience and not need a trail.
 - His Let Fires burn! Yellowstone had thought us that fire suppression is really unnessary, Bulldowers and fire-breaking do more damaged than natural fires.
 - I would also like to noe wild River status for Rough Greek in the Rodie Rills, mining location withdrawnis along Pat Keyes Trail, a Bighren shoep herd ing the Dryes, socses right-of-way for existing Drye Mt. trails, and the establishment of an Dryoth Bristleoner Pine Protective Area.

I greatly appreciate your attention to these conderns and the opportunity I have for extending these convents, mank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Al White

ALAN L WHIT' P 0 BOX 596 SAN CLEMENT : CA 92678 - 0 596

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 89 (Alan L. White)

- 89-1) See Appendix 8 of the draft RMP and the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 89-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 89-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 89-4) We appreciate your concern for the management of non-game species, Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 89-5) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 89-6) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for our final RMP.
- 89-7) Please see response 79-7.
- 89-8) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 89-9) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Inyo National Forest 873 N. Main St. Bishop, CA 93514 (619) 873-5841

Reply to: 1950

Mike Ferguson Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514



Date: January 17, 1991

Dear Nike:

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We are responding only with reference to the impacts of your Plan on National Forest System lands.

1. With reference to the Mono Basin Scenic Area:

As approximately half of the Scenic Area is bordered by Bureau land, the management of these lands has a definite impact on the visual quality of the Scenic Area. We appreciate the efforts that were made in the RMP to have management of these adjacent lands compatible with the special management needs of the Scenic Area. Overall we feel that great sensitivity to the Scenic Area was shown.

We support the proposed expanded role of BLM in regionwide recreation management, and feel that the proactive management emphasis which is intended to attract more destination visitors and receive more Inyo National Forest spillower, is definitely a step in the right direction,

We also support the increased emphasis on environmental education, interpretation and the development of an environmental education center in Bishop. We support, and would like to work cooperatively with you on the development of interpretive plans, particularly in the Mono Basin and Bodie travel corridors. Increased cooperative recreation management in the Emstern Sierre will help both seconics to better serve the public.

We support any and all efforts to enhance widdlife habitat, especially for sage grouse, mule deer and pronghorn. We would like to work severally and private landowners at Conway Ranch to retain and enhance the current fishery and wildlife habitat along Wilson Creek in the Mono Basin.

As noted in the RMP, the phasing out of grazing in the Scenic Area will have an ispact on current permittees whose allotements are on both Burseau and Scenic Area Index. The Scenic Area Cooper Development of the Cooper Cooper

po-1

there to be modified to allisants those portions within the Scenic Area. In

conf.

Best or recent court orders restoring goes desented streams in the Mono

Best to pre-discretion conditions, LANP must look at modifying some of its

grazing lesses. This could have further impacts to pormittees, and further

points out the need for some type of coordinated resource management,

plemning for greating in the Mono Bessin. We look forward to working with

you in some such effort.

We greatly support any and all actions designed to eliminate visual impacts in the Mono Basin. We consider protection of the viswshed around the Scenic Area to be of highest importance. We support the concept of acquiring private lands or scenic esseents where private development would degrade scenery or violate VMN objectives.

We support and would cooperate in all efforts to designate U.S. 395 and Highway 120 East as Scenic Byways.

Under Altermative 3 it is stated that, "Wearlong protection within 1 mile
70-2 of the Komo Basin National Forest Scenic Area to protect the viceshead,"
would be provided. It is unclear to us what this means. With some
clarification, this might be something we would want to see included in the
solected altermative. The RPF states that restrictions proposed in
Altermative 3 to protect Romo main scenary were not included in the
proferred altermative because "the VRPF I classification will adequately,
private war are somewhat unclear on the absolute strength of VRBs to provide
long-term protection. Are they not really easy to memoff. Secondly, we do
not believe that surface occupancy is stifugately in this area.

90-3

We are unclear on the character and potential for goothermal development in the Mono Basin and the Greatite Mountain M. Statements throughout the BNP seem at times to be contradictory. We have definite concerns regarding goothermal development within the vieweled of the Scenic Area.

Toward the goal of making management of adjacent lands compatible, we would encourage you to look at placing restrictions on geothermal and salable sineral development and rights of way, to maximize the protection of Mono Basin scenery and to provide the same level of recreation experience for visitors to the Mono Basin scenery.

90-4 goal of the Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan (after methophalic involvement) was to leave the east side of Mono Lake in as such an opportunities for so litude and exploration and the Mono Basic case through opportunities for solitude and exploration in the Mono Basic case through very clearly, We decided to leave it as is, and applied the "limited very clearly, We decided to leave it as is, and applied the "limited are unsure sity Wife Cleas II would provide the same level of protection."

90-5
Lestly, and probably of the most concern to us of all, is the proposal for the revocation of all watershed withdrawals. To the extent that the withdrawals reserved water in lakes or tributaries we feel that it could be very detrimental to revoke them. If any of the withdrawals are adjacent to Mono Lake, they are of great value to us in our assertion of

2

- 90-5 riparian/littoral water rights. It is the assertion of these rights that we may have to rely on to achieve maintenance of Mono Lake within the range identified in our Management Plan.
 - 2. With reference to the Forest's Land Management Plan
- Our ealy concern is the reference to meeting the Objectives of CHFAG hard plans. Those plans were sistelently "incorporated into the Plan without revision" (Plan, p. 258). They should have been listed as "incorporated with direction to vortiso or update" as we have discovered that many are not-of-date. We will seem the Plan to change that designation and we will be the control of the plan to change that designation and we will be the control of the plan to change that designation and we will be the control of the plan to change that designation and we will be the control of the plan to change that the size of the plan to change that the plan to change the plan to change
 - 3. With reference to the Owen's Valley and South Invo Management Areas
- Alternative A recommends both Independence and George Creeks for Further 90-7 study in regards to their Mild and Scenic River qualities. Both of these creeks have substantial length on the Porest. Because of the activities for Highern Sheep bullet a temporare and at local case to the activities for Highern Sheep bullet at provenies and at local case to the activities for the study of the stud
- 90-8 ... "average allotmentwide utilization will not exceed 60%..." (p. 50). We assume this is an error and should say that 60% is the maximum allowed.
- 90-9

 In the preferred alternative a decision is made to fence Cartago, Braley and Cottomwood Creeks. It appears that site specific decisions are not to be made in this document according to statements on pages 24 and 175.

 These decisions should be deferred to the grazing EIS's done in 1981 and 1981 and to all licent sensement blone.
- 70-10 The document states that full suppression of wildfire arounds will benefit to existing forage base (p. 201). We would like to suggest a resording of that statement to: Unplanned fire will be suppressed unless desirable resource objectives can be set by a solfized suppression strategy. This
- 90-II Mildfire suppression in South Inyo and Owens Lake Management Areas under Alternative #4 calls for modified procedures such as prohibiting blading by buldozers except when human life and property is threatened, in order to minimize surface disturbance. We suggest you extend this practice to riperian and other applicable sensitive areas.
- 90-12.

 The docision to not allow greating on currently unalloted areas may conflict.

 The previous greating ETS's, this decision should be deferred to those documents as stated on pages 24 and 175. A site specific analysis may indicate that in some areas there is potential to facilitate interagency resource meangement by allowing greating on currently unalloted areas as assent to Porest Service or BUM allotments.

3

Alternative ## sould revoke all waterabed withdrawals in the Bishop

Become Avan. This could have an adverse effect on adjacent National

Forest lands supporting wildlife populations, riperian areas, sensitive

plants; grazing, recreation, and waterabed because the right of your agency

under the Escondido Becision to impose populations, the property of the proper

4. With reference to the Interagency Utility Corridor Study.

30-14 singureriate the cooperative effort of the Bishop Resource Area in completing this study. In presenting the relevant information in the Brytronsental Impact Statement, it would help if it were incorporated in onegenction, rather than distributed throughout the document.

DENNIS W. MARTIN Forest Supervisor

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 90 (Inyo National Forest)

- 90-1) A CRMP approach could be used for resolution of the grazing changes within the Scenic Area.
- 90-2) Yearlong protection would prevent discretionary actions that may adversely affect scenic values in the Mono Basin. Uses would be managed to prevent disturbance to scenic resources. The Bureau believes that the visual resource management program would manage the potential uses just as effectively. It is the intent of this RMP to apply the visual resource management (VFIM) objectives as resource condition standards and not solely as inventory or guideline features. As a result, proposed land uses will be required to meet the VFIM objective for an area, it is believed that Class II standards would adequately protect the area's scenery under this application. Note that the final RIMP has identified parameters for the standards. This is described in Chapter 1, Standard Operatine Procedures.
- 90-3) See general response on geothermal (p.5-15).
- 90-4) The overall management theme and supporting prescriptions emphasize protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and scenic values. Opportunities for dispersed recreation are emphasized. Mineral exploration and development are allowed. This management direction, the area's low mineral development potential and the low demand for development along the east side of Mono Lake would maintain the area's current semi-primitive state. The VFM standards, Desired Plant Community management, and proposed private land acquisitions would provide some protection as well.
- 90-5) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 90-6) Thank you for the information.
- 90-7) Your comments regarding opposition to eligibility of the candidate creeks on National Forest lands have been noted and will be incorporated in the upcoming suitability studies. We will

keep your office informed as to the status of our wild and scenic river review program.

90-8) This decision has been changed. See the Area-Wide decisions for the Preferred Alternative in Chapter 2, final RMP.

This office considers 60% to be an acceptable use based on allowable use percentages for the native vegetation within the eastern Sierra

- 90-9) Normally an activity plan would develop the fencing requirement, but in this case, an activity plan is not proposed for the area.
- 90-10) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 90-11) Please refer to the final plan area-wide decision regarding use of bulldozers and other heavy equipment.
- 90-12) There is not a conflict with the grazing EISs. If these areas had been analyzed as unallotted in the EISs their preferred alternatives and analyses would not differ significantly.

Four allotments, which were created by the 1981 Grazing EISs and which have never been allocated to operators, will be changed to an unallotted status. Frazier Carryon has 223 AUMs, a 10 mile fencing requirement, a livestock driveway, and no water. Fish Slough has 39 AUMs, some water, a 9 mile fencing requirement and is within an ACEC. Keough has 29 AUMs, some water, and a 6 mile fencing requirement; and Black Rock has 36 AUMs, no water, and a 6 mile fencing requirement. On other area although not identified as an allotment was to be added to the existing Ash Creek allotment. This area has 90 AUMs, no water, a 32 mile fencing requirement, and a livestock driveway. It will remain unallotted.

It is not cost effective to manage these areas as grazing allotments, and it does not appear that combining these areas with adjacent Forest Service land would remedy this.

90-13) See general response for watershed withdrawals.

90-14) The corridor study has been integrated with the rest of the RMP/EIS to facilitate consideration of corridor impacts and concerns in the RMP and the consideration of RMP impacts and concerns in the corridor study.



Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft RMP. We appreciate having been included in the information-gathering and discussion process of this document. The BUM has always been very responsive to the concerns of the residents in this area.

In reviewing the draft RMP we have found it to be generally well done, but the corridor sections include many parts that are erroneous, misleading, or inadequate. We cannot support the adoption of any corridor designation based on the information provided in this document.

- All the corridor study has really succeeded in accomplishing is to eliminate from consideration areas in which a corridor definitely cannot be designated, based on existing land use prescriptions. "Study" of the three remaining areas appears to have been precursory and superfictel at best.

-- The study of the proposed corridor areas has none of the depth or detail of an BA or BIS, although it has been included as part of a draft BIS.

- . The assurance that any proposal would initiate an EIS is not adequate. Designating a corridor as part of your RMP process implies that the designated area has been found acceptable for corridor use. Utility companies would be justified in aying that they were led to believe that a line would be acceptable somewhere within the designated corridor.
- The decision to adopt the Soldier Canyon alternative over the Queen Valley or Pizona alternatives is supposedly based on a finding that there would be a lesser effect on resource values, decimal conclusion is not supported by information given in the decimal conclusion of the property of the property of the inaccurate or erroneous in others. A factual look at alternatives would likely show that their resource values are similar and approximately equal. No recognition is given in the corridor in the Queen Valley or Pizona area; opposition to a corridor in the Queen Valley or Pizona area;
- The decision to adopt the Soldier Canyon alternative over the No Action alternative is based on "the benefits of providing additional stability to the regional electrical supply system." The only documentation given for this finding was provided by a LADWP is a likely future proceeding the first and power. LADWP is a likely future profit from the establishment of a and obviously could stand to profit from the establishment of a

corridor.

A listing of specific errors and inconsistencies follows, in the order in which they are found in the document:

- Page 35 states that "three alternative corridors were identified as having no limiting factors that would necessarily prohibit transmission lines." While we understand the intent of this statement, the sammer in which it is worded implies that it has already been demonstrated that transmission lines within these areas would not have negative impacts. Also, this is one of many places in the document in which areas studies as possible corridor alternatives are referred to as "corridors" which they
- Page 49, section 2 ("Future facilities in these corridors...") is unclear as to intent. Why would facilities be allowed to "exceed" (violate) VRM and yearlong protection standards?
- Page 90 states that the first applicant for a project would be required "to determine the number of additional transmission lines the...corridors can support and what mitigation would be required." There is no mention of the possibility of determining that no line should be constructed.
- 8 | There seems to be no mention of a proposed corridor width.
- It is absurd to justify severe impacts to recreation by saying "the current level of use is low." This would be analagous to amputating a person's legs because he hadn't been hiking lately. The low level of use is precisely what makes such an area attractive to those who do use it.
- Page 168 The Queen Valley area is not currently "a five on alle vide corridor! The description of the Montyonery Pass area is also completely incorrect. There is not "substantial development." There is one very small casting, no junk yard that we know of; very few dwellings; very few ditt roads, and no pawed roads other than the highway tixelf. The "scattered ranches, mines and quarties" are very few and far between and scarcely interrupt the wast stretches of scenic vistas.
- Page 169 glosses over recreational opportunities in the area.
 There is no mention of the emphasis the Forest Service places on maintaining recreation values in this area.
- Page 206 the rationale given for integrating the corridor study vith the RMP is inadequate. A corridor study could just as easily consider the full range of alternatives after finalization of an RMP.
- In evaluating the impacts of the No Action alternative, far too much weight is given to the utility industry's statements regarding system reliability. Furthermore, this assumed impact

- is described in terms of "a decrease in reliability." Declining
 9-13 to establish a new corridor where there is no corridor at present
 could not possibly result in a decrease in the reliability of the
 existing system
- In the conclusion to this section, the statement that "environmental lapacts vould be slightly lease" evidently includes consideration of where lines might have to go if they were not routed through a new corridor here. If no new corridor were established, there would be no environmental impacts within the Bishop Resource Area.
- This is, in fact, the only section in which consideration is given to possible impacts outside of the study area. Why, then, is there no mention of what might happen in Deep Springs Valley or Pish Lake Valley if the Soldier Canyon alternative is selected? Why is there no mention of the probability that a corridor extending down Montgomery Pass, given the limited capacity of the "intertie," would lead to proposals to route lines through menton, Hammil and Chalfant Valleys?
- 91-46 orrelation between EMP and various types of cancer and other health problems. They do not "typically conclude that no link has been established."
- 91-17 Appendix 8 As stated earlier, this is not adequate proof of a need for a new corridor here. The proposed decision to establish a corridor is based entirely on this supposed need.

The eastern Sierra should not be sacrificed to Los Angeles' desire for nore power. As with water, southern California micro exercise to the source of the so

We originally asked for a corridor study several years ago, the believing that if a good place for a corridor could be found, it would be highly beneficial to designate a several beneficial transmission lines will be discouraged within the study that transmission lines will be discouraged within the study that the stu

Again, our thanks for the opportunity to comment. This process has assured us that we truly have a voice in the future of our nublic lands.

Sincerely,

Joda Benson
Linda Benson
Tri-Valley Committee

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 91 (Tri-Valley Committee)

- 91-1) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 91-2) See the Impacts of Comidor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 91-3) Pages 12 through 15 of the draft RMP provide a comparison of the environmental impacts of the three east-west alternative corridor areas considered in the study. Based upon that information, it is difficult to conclude that the impacts to resource values between the alternative areas would be similar and approximately equal. However, the impacts section of the final RMP has been rewritten to more clearly document the difference in estimated impacts between the three east-west alternative corridor areas considered in the study.

The comment that the estimated environmental impact information is conflicting and erroneous is too general to address. Impacts were estimated based upon known and inventoried resources and resource values in each of the atternative corridor areas considered. The corridor study actively solicited and considered current public concerns about corridor designation within the Bishop Resource Area and the linyo National Forest. Historic public concerns about corridor designation in the Queen Valley and Pizona areas were also considered.

- 91-4) Additional and more independent information which supports the need for an east-west corridor designation in this part of the state has been incorporated in the final document.
- 91-5) The impacts section of the draft RMP (pages 206-210) documents that there indeed would be negative impacts that would result from corridor designation in all three of the east-west alternative corridor areas considered in the study. The referenced statement on p.35 is not included in the final RMP.

The east-west corridor areas considered in the corridor study are not actual corridors in and of themselves. Each alternative is

- actually an area which, if selected from this study, would be more specifically inventoried and analyzed for the location of a corridor alignment within it.
- 91-6) The intent is to avoid having to do a plan amendment (for a possible additional transmission line adjacent to existing lines) by providing a caveat allowing the line to exceed VRM and yearlong protection standards. Extensive mitigation would be required to avoid or reduce the impacts at which VRM standards and yearlong protection are aimed.
- 91-7) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study.
- 91-8) See "Conditions That Apply to All Corridor Alternatives," #14, in Chapter 2 of the final RMP.
- 91-9) The rationale for the draft Preferred Alternative (page 90) is not intended to justify severe impacts to recreation based upon low levels of use. The rationale for the final decision has been re-written to eliminate misleading statements to that effect.
- 91-10) The referenced statement from p.168 has been revised to read: "The Queen Valley Alternative Corridor Area is a five-mile wide area....." Descriptions of the Montgomery Pass and Queen Valley areas have been rewritten in the final document.
- 91-11) Page 168, draft RMP, states that the Queen Valley Alternative Corridor Area is predominantly located in the White Mountains Management Area of the Inyo National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan, and that the northern portion of the area has been allocated to the Mule Deer Habitat Management Prescription (within the Plan's Piroan Management Area). These prescriptions call for management emphasis to maintain dispersed and semi-primitive recreation opportunities, where they occur.
- 91-12) Your comment is noted.

- 91-13) See the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 91-14) The No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative would have environmental effects, but not within the Bishop Resource Area nor the Inyo National Forest. It is anticipated that the demand for electricity will continue to increase into the foreseeable future and, with it, the need to build new transmission lines. Consequently, the impact of the No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative assumes that, given the projected need for new transmission lines from anticipated generation sources in the Utah/Nevada area to the area of demand in Southern California, powerlines not allowed to be routed through the Owens Valley will need to be routed elsewhere.
- 91-15) See the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.

Concerning the issue that designation of the DC Intertie route as a corridor will lead to proposals to route lines through Benton, Hammil, and Chalfant Valleys, see response 7-2 and response 57-1.

- 91-16) See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 91-17) See the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 91-18) Thank you for your comments. They have been considered in the final decision.





THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

January 15, 1991 CALIFORNIA/NEVADA REGIONAL OFFICE

Michael Ferguson, Area Manager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Comments on the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMF/ETS). We also wish to incorporate by refurence to the International Plant of the International Plant of

Our comments, questions and concerns are detailed below. First, the "general comments" involve criticism of the document's land of comments and the comment of the comment's land of comments and the resource management planning process. Second, and sore specifically, we include a discussion or comments on major categories of resources that will be impacted. Within each of these sections are general comments and specific.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (MERA) require that "high quality" information be made "available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken* (40 C.F.R. § 1500.1b). An EIS must include a "detailed statement" of the environmental impacts of a proposed action(42 U.S.C. § 4332). The BIM must "[1]dentity environmental effects and values in adequate detail so they can be compared to economic and technical analyses* (40 C.F.R. §

The RMP/EIS does not comply with these documentation requirements. It is confusing in its layout and is poorly

116 NEW MONTGOMERY, SUITE 526, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105 (415) 541-9144 referenced. Analyzing impacts entails flipping through 276 pages of tables, mage, appendices and prose in an attempt to follow the presented topics. This scattered and unorganized format is so confusing that it violates the MEPA, precluding the public from proper assessment of cumulative impacts to the resource area environment. An index would greatly mass understanding of this

The RMP/RIS is difficult to comprehend due to lack of explanations and numerous contradictions. NERA mandates that the document provide "good analysis and clear presentation of the alternatives" (40 c.P.R. § 1502.10), yet this is clearly not achieved in the plan. Additionally, the Natural Resource Enhancement Alternative appears to be the most environmentally protective, but the basic structural and substantive defects within the document prevent conclusive support of any one of the

The RMP/KIS states that, "It he decisions made in the RMP are planning decisions. They will provide overall quidance for resolving major resource use, allocation and protection issues. They will be implemented either directly or through site specific activity plans"(p.25). It is understood that only general management plans are presented and dealt with in the document. However, the RMP presents few specifics for activity plans and no process for their development. Some effort must be made to describe the methods to achieve presented gools in order to the second of the present of the second process of the second process of the second process of the second process of the second process.

92-2

92-3

Examples of insufficient details and definitions are many. First, the terms "deasonal protection" and "yearions protection" is allables/geothermal). The glossary defines seasonal protection as, "during the period specified, no discretionary actions which would adversely affect target resources would be allowed"(p.230) the period, the sesciented target resources would be allowed"(p.230) the period, the associated target resources, or example period discretionary actions. Second, words such as "health protect," are used "stabilized"(s.q. p.88), are used "protect," restore, "and "stabilized"(s.q. p.88), are used actions that will be used for their schievesent. One of such schieves and the second schieves are second schieves and the second schieves are second schieves and the second schieves and the second schieves and the second schieves

The Alternatives for Individual Management Areas lists numerous management activities which do not state any information regarding implementation. For example, the plan proposes to "...develop an iMPF for West Walker deer herd, ...develop an activity plan for the Slinkard ACEC, ...develop an AMP for the

Green Creek allothent, ...develop cooperative management of Travertine ACEC with Native Americans and other groups" (p. 56-61/Alt. 4). No explicit terms are used. The BIM needs to set exact time frames for all the new management plans and cooperative programs suggested. Specific details must be offered in the RMYFIS.

Additionally, the Area Managers Guidelines (p. 2c-27) lists vaguely supported actions. For example, Guidelines 13 states, "ajctions that will interfere significantly with efforts to "area will generally not be allowed." Yet the definition of "significant" is nowhere to be found. This nonspecific and arbitrary language coupled with the inevitable changes in Area Manager personnel leaves great leavey in interpreting the Area Manager personnel leaves great leavey in interpreting the Area (Manager personnel leaves great leavey in interpreting the Area (Manager personnel leaves great leavey) in interpreting the Area (Manager personnel leaves great leavey) in the provided the standards for recourse managements.

Finally, in the purpose and need for this RMP the plan state that, "the Area Manager identified sixteen major proposals not in contraity with the MFPs [management framework plans]"(p.19). Rach nonconforming proposal requires an MFP assendment. Fet none of the 16 are specifically mentioned in the they are to meet a conformity standard.

Conclusion:

The examples above clearly exemplify the incomplete, unorganized nature of the draft RMF/EIS. Due to the overwhelming need for significant revisions the RMF/EIS should be revoked, and revocation is needed to (1) make the document comprehensible, (2) comply with REFA, which requires draft EISs to be revised, "[1]f a draft statement is so inadequate as to preclude meaningful the complete of the co

TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR:

The powerline corridor study is inconclusive, superficial, nonanalytical, and inappropriate in the RMP/EIS. A volume of questions and concerns regarding the proposed corridor remain and must be addressed in a separate EIS. The enormity of impacts and the complexity of the issue demand no less.

Cortidor construction under the preferred alternative of coldier Canyon would severely impact this natural, relatively undisturbed region of the RA. The region is a 45,000 acre Forest Service roadless area "seleased" by passage of the 1912 to the composition of the RA. The region is a 45,000 acre Forest Service roadless area "seleased" by passage of the 1912 to the control of th

logical extension of the corridor east would have it passing through beep springs valley and the 60,000 acre Piper Mountain NBA (proposed for Wilderness in the California Desert Protection NBA (proposed for Wilderness in the California Desert Protection NBA (proposed for Wilderness in the California Desert Protection archaeological and cultural sites, visual resources, a proposed bighorn sheep reintroduction site, mule deer migration corridors, raptor populations and wetlands near Deep Springs Lake. The listing as threatened/endangered species would also be impacted. The plan itself concedes that "[s]ome loss of sensitive plants is anticipated"(p.210). This is not an acceptable summary for the submarcs, only trommental, usuality.

The RMF/EIS also states that, "[t]here would be minimal degree of negative impacts to visual resources, except in the vicinity of any crossing of the Naucoba Road" [rable 8-2]. In the content was easily a constant of the Naucoba Road" [rable 8-2]. In the content was easy of the Naucoba Road vices of the content of the c

The Pizona Alternative for transmission line corridor also involves an area which is totally pristine and wild. This is an unacceptable choice when other options exist. The RMF/EIS admits that, "ft]here would be significant negative impacts to the area's natural and undisturbed character"(p. 12), but does not discuss these significant impacts adequately. Six basic concerns involving the Pizona area alternative are described in a letter pattern and the property of the proper

Aside from wilderness values, the RMF/EIS does not satisfactorily discuss several factors of analysis which are needed to assess the utility corridor proposal. The BLM Manual (Release 1-1470, 11/14/86, 1623.52-87-1) lists factors which are usually considered in arriving at right-of-way related RMF edebrhantloss includings need, feasibility, and results of

Need for the new utility corridor RA is poorly justified in the RBM/EIS. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power(LADWR) prepared of the statement of need for the SBM/EIS(Appendix 8). They argue that "the need for additional electricity in Southern California is expected to increase concerns are raised over potential cascade outages, due to sudden interruptions of a very large power transfer between two networks which is plausible with the construction of a new transmission line within the Boulder/IPP corridor. Additional concerns are voiced over possible simultaneous forced outages from lightning, flood, wind, sircraft, vandaliss, or sabotage. More of lightning past records of outages and causes is needed to detarmine the past records of outages and causes is needed to detarmine the actual need for concern, and more important, the need to designate a separate utility corridor. Overall, the separate outlift corridor. Overall, the separate outlift of the separate outlift outl

The RMP/SIS should provide the public with a "no new power line corridor" alternative. Possible outage concerns could be avoided while utilizing the existing Boulder/IPP corridor. The RMP/SIS itself submits that, "distance separation of individual transmission lines within a corridor helps to mitigate the potential of simultaneous forced outsges" (Appendix 8). And as stated above, the causes for concern over use of existing corridors are unsubstantiated.

The document also states that, "[1]t is recognized that the requirements for new corridors (actually portions of a new corridor) may be environmentally less desirable than using existing developed corridors" (Appendix 8). This is a vast understatement. Obylously use of existing corridors would not be a second to the corridor would involve numerous new impacts.

The need for the new power line corridor also disregards a discussion of the anticipated necessity to build and expand power line facilities south of Bishop, involving a corridor which is not presently designated for expansion. This is especially important due to the minimum costs of using this corridor at \$160,000/mile. Need also should be explained by disclosing information regarding pending utility applications, mineral explorations or long range corridor studies. These are absent in the RMP with the exception of "various identified geothermal resources in west-central Nevada, specifically the Dixie Valley, Steamboat Springs near Reno, and the area near Fallon" (Appendix 8/p.275). Such vaque descriptions of potential energy sources do not make a valid case for the need for an additional utility corridor designation. The technical and economic feasibility of constructing utility facilities in the Bishop RA is also left unexamined.

This plan also fails to draw a concrete conclusion on a superior alternative. Table S-2(p.12-15), which compares the impacts of the transmission line alternatives, presents no conclusion on the best option for the power corridor. Minimum

impacts on wild horse habitat and cultural resource preservation lean towards the Soldier Canyon alterna ive. Focusing on wildlife habitats favors the Pizona alternative with less disturbance disturbance with the property of the present the present of the present the present of the present

Purther study is needed which includes the "no new power line corridor" option, in order for the public and the BUM to make a decision regarding a new transmission line corridor. In addition, the public and the property of the control of the corridor in the proposed transmission power lines may have on human health. Studies suggest that electromagnetic fields produced from power lines may be linked to childhood leukemia and cancers (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Statement, 1990). addressing only exposure levels.

The results of coordination and consultations with adjacent BLM offices in Ridgecrest, and other state or federal agencies is also inadequately embraced in the RMP/EIS. The process of designation is fragmented, at best, in the present document and does not provide for logical extensions of the corridor. Key coordination efforts in the RMP include, "[a]ssuring that logical extensions of the utility corridors analyzed in this study would in a timely manner be studied by adjacent BLM jurisdictions to avoid the establishment of dead end corridors" (p.28) but do not include any reasons to confirm this assurance. From the maps provided(Figure 3-19,20,21) all corridors will pass through the adjacent Ridgecrest Resource Area, yet no coordination for extension of the corridor into the California Desert District is presented. Moreover, the alternative of Soldier Canvon would pass through an undetermined number of Wilderness Study Areas in the Ridgecrest Resource Area, including Wyman Creek, Piper Mountain and Sylvania Mountains, and would be in direct conflict with the Interim Management Policy for lands under wilderness review (IMP Guidelines, H-8550-1).

The RMP/RIS states that, "adjacent BIM jurisdictions (one in california and two in Newada) decided not to participate directly in the study. However, they have completed brief studies of logical corridor extensions on their lands. The extensions are planning cycle"(p.30). The studies and their "brief" findings must be revealed to the public. The sasurance from these studies that "the extensions are tentatively feasible," strikes us as an Respurca Area, whose Acting Area Hanager has expressing reservations about the eastward extension of the corridor (See Attached Letter From Lee Delaney to Mike Ferguson).

Conclusion:

72.6 impacts and adequately assess all significant environmental studied in its entirety. The RMP/EIS as presented is fragmented, plecement, and incomplete, thereby demonstrating the need for a more comprehensive study. The project is of sufficient scope and, has impacts beyond the Bision Resource Area. Need is not time. For these reasons, it is necessary that a full EIS is prepared.

VEGETATION:

92-9

The Desired Plant Community(DPC) concept involves a laudable vision. Yet there is a lack of information regarding project funding, implementation deadlines, and public participation in quideline formation which make the DPCs a major weak point in the DMP/RIS. The plan also does not explain a number of rudimentary points relating to the DPC concept, such as how monitoring is to take place, how baseline data was gathered, and by whom. As an would not be reduced from present levels' (Appendix 1). No data describes 'present levels' which are highly degraded from overgrazing and would not provide an adequate baseline.

DPC standards, for the most part, are very detailed and make use excellent plant choices as indicator species. However, many important species are left out. For example, the goal of the DPC or Bristlecone and Limber Pine in the South Inyo Management Area, "is to retain the current composition of plant species within the assemblage" (p. 239/Appendix 1), yet there are only two species named which will serve as indicators of plant species composition maintenance. The definition itself states that the "limber pine would also [in addition to the bristlecone pine] represent greater than or equal to 6% of plant composition" (n.239/Appendix 1). This leaves approximately 94% of the plant species composition in the area unaccounted for, unmonitored, and hence subject to population decline well within the DPC standards. Species representing each major plant group should be designated and maintained at percentages comparable to those found in totally undisturbed areas. Along with the chosen gymnosperms, representative angiosperm trees, shrubs, annual and perennial flowers and grasses should be designated.

Some indicator species are based on historic huntable species data. These make good indicators in some instances, in the example of the Sage grouse (p.240/Appendix 1). But the DPCs managing for a species such as chukar, an introduced game bird, are not appropriate. DPC goals should be to promote the

establishment and maintenance of native species and native habitats--thus indicator species should be native.

Riparian DPC criteria(p.241-242/Appendix 1) are less specific than other DPC definitions and thus will be even more difficult to implement, monitor, and determine successful goals. The property of the second of t

There are few, if any, management objectives listed in the RMP/RIS for the DPCs. The BLM Manual (Release 1-1468, 1)/14/86, 51621.31A2) states that management direction should, "[i]dentify the range of management practices that may be used to achieve the vegetation management objectives." The RMP/RIS should list vegetation management objectives. "The RMP/RIS should list the practice practices which will be allowed and disallowed within the DPC standards, including 1 minutes of the RMP/RIS should list the DPC standards, including 1 minutes of the RMP/RIS should list the DPC standards, including 1 minutes of the RMP/RIS should list the RMP/RIS shoul

DPCs propose to manage only 104,620 acres out of 745,000 in the RA. No natter how well the DPC goals are met there is great room for vegetative degradation in the majority of lands not monitored by plant community maintenance. The DPCs also ignore many important areas such as Thermal Marsh and Mono Pusice Flat that are home to semsitive species and unique habitats. The Proposition of the Pr

Specific Points:

The areas on which DPC goals are proposed to be met are not clear(Appendix 1)—these should be referenced if described elsewhere in the document(p.63). Map delineations or plans to provide these in a supplemental document are needed.

DPCs are defined for 237,000 acres(p.29) while areas proposed for management involve only 104,620 acres(p.36). Why are areas defined that will not be managed? Which lands in the 237,000 make up the 104,620 to be managed? These should be made clear in maps.

"Bureau locatable mineral development will aliminate approximately 1,500 acres of vegetation with less than 1% occurring in meadow, riparian, aspen, and old growth vegetation types" (p.200/Alt. 4). What type of vegetation is 92-9
sent | found in 99% of the acres eliminated by locatable mineral development?
What are the "regional improvements," mentioned on page 200

in the DPC habitat improvement projects?

MINERALS AND MINING:

As one of the first BLM documents in California to plan for hardrock mining operations on public lands we acknowledge the sincers efforts of the Bishop RA BLM. Initiation of planning mining practices are needed. The lands and outstanding natural resources embodied by the bishop RA are of particular significance and specific hardrock mining management plans are

Nonetheless, the RMY/EIS does not provide satisfactory protection of natural resources from siming development in the hishop RA. The object of the MMY/EIS is to, "provide for environmental values" (n. 25/Alternatives). This is evidently not being achieved under the given alternatives. For example, the preferred alternative proposes a 1,900 acre withdrawal of lands from shiring development while the current management is 2-1). How can the present management be more environmentally protective than the proposed action? There must be more options. The preferred alternative also proposes a token amount of acreage for further protect or enhance the more current shiring development of the proposed acturers shiring development of the protect of enhance the more current shiring development policies.

The RMP/EIS is unclear about the exact locations and description of the areas to be closed to hardrock mining. As stated in the BLM Manual (Release 1-1471, 11/14/86, 51624,31A1b). "falreas which are or will be closed to the operation of the mining laws must be described in the text and portrayed on a map" (emphasis added). The maps provided with the RMP/RIS show boundaries to areas to be closed to mining, yet these are approximate at best, and no description of the areas is presented in the plan text. We support the full withdrawal of the entire Southern Invo Mountains area and all ACECs in the resource area We also concur with the mineral withdrawal recommendations that the BLM made in their draft preferred alternative (circulated in March 1990), for each of the nine management areas (MA). These include: a section of Braley Creek and the tule elk calving area (Owens Valley MA); a three mile buffer zone against geothermal development around the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (Granite Mountain MA); and Virginia Creek (Bridgeport Valley MA). Additionally, all Wild and Scenic River candidate

segments (Appendix 2) should be withdrawn.

8

92-10

We support locatable and leasable mineral withdrawals to protect all historic, cultural and arch_eological resources. It is also necessary to withdraw all lands from mineral entry, that provide habitat for state or federally listed threatened, endangered or candidate species. These should include, but not be exclusive to the habitats of the species listed in Appendix 5 and their associated habitats, habitats of plants and animals identified as candidates for protection as threatened or endangered species in the South Inyo MA, and the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC in the Bodie Hills MA. Prior to withdrawal, the plan needs to define and submit habitat boundaries since the plan contains little such information. Federal law states, "[i]f there is any unavoidable conflict with an endangered species habitat [in regards to a mining operation], a plan could be rejected based . . . on section 302(b) of the Endangered Species Act"(45 Federal Register 78905). By enacting withdrawals to protect the integrity of habitats of threatened, endangered and candidate species, the BLM will comply with federal law and avoid future compliance conflicts.

92-11

92-12

The plan also presents few details regarding mining decisions, which are essential to public analysis. The BIM Manual (Id., \$3031) describes locatable mineral occurrence assume that the manual contract of the contract of t

Under the projections of future development and use (p-16-180) percentages are used to describe locatable mineral development in the alternatives. Percentages of locatable and salables are deemed 'becommically lead in 'manginally or emvironmental reasons'(p.179). However, the basis for determining economic feasibility is not made clear. Are current market prices used for gold? Have gold price increase trends been considered and used to determine feurone values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and used to determine future values of mineral been considered and mineral be

Percentages are also given for mineral deposits to be withdrawn, to be constrained by protection, and restricted by withdrawn, to be constrained by protection, and restricted by constrained by the constraint of the constraint of

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It is questionable how these "super" projects will make a significant contribution to the tax hase of Mono and Inyo Counties(p.179). What portion of mine operation revenues enter the local and county economises? Data on current mining operation contributions to the county's tax base is meeded to allow the public to determine if these are valid arguments. Large mineral industry that made areas such as Bodie economically grow and distinct industry that made areas such as Bodie economically grow and distinct the property of the property of

The National Historic Landmark at Bodie:

The Bodie Bowl and Bodie Hills region, including Bodie
Bluff, the High Peak Area, the Bodie State Historic/National
Bluff, the High Peak Area, the Bodie State Historic/National
culturally rich environment. Mining projects in the region will
create numerous irrevocable environmental lapacts on the various
natural, outlural and historic resources of Bodie. The special
nature of this area and its need for protection is acknowledged
an ACEC to protect visual and historic values"(p. 5). The
natural resource enhancement alternative for the Bodie Hills MA
lists to "[propose a locatable mineral withdrawal for the Bodie
Bowl." We fully support this withdrawal and an ACEC designation,
resources at Bodie.

"[Cluidel.Ines to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation in the Bodde State Historic Landmark"(p.66), should be strictly predefined by Visual Resource Management (PRM) I standards, as prescribed by the VRM maps. Bodie Hills RM rationale includes the statement, "[t] he management area will remain open to mind; "t] the statement of the stateme

Final decisions regarding the management and protection of the resources, including scenic values, at Bodie must be made arter boundary determinations for the National Historic Landmark are complete. National Historic Landmark boundary determinations by the National Park Service (HPS) may be subject to the National

Mistorio Preservation Act process(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. \$106), which anadates that all federal projects involving landmarks require consultation with the Advisory Council on Mistorio Preservation, whose discretionary decisions are quided by specific regularized projects and impacts to the Landmark cannot properly assessed. Boundary determinations are tentatively scheduled for approval sometime in February (personal communication with Margret. The official boundaries and ginnal communication with Margret. The official boundaries and determined prior to that time, for the above sentioned reasons. If these boundary determinations are not complete at the time of issuance of the the final document.

Purthermore, hardrock mining in the Bodie Bowl is in direct conflict with Senate Joint Resolution 60 of August 22, 1990 which calls for protection of a 7,000 acre area of Bodie Bowl. In addition, the BiM's document, "Becreation 2000, A strategic Plan for California Mecreationthe, "Bodie Bowl. 10 and the California Mecreation of the California Mecreation and California Mecreation of the California Mecreation and California Mecreation of the California Mecreation of all current and potential mining activities, ownership of lands to be worked, adjacent affected lands including WASAs, and explanations of conflicts in existing management policies. In accordance with BMT recent activities, management policies. In accordance with BMT recent matternal Mistoric Landmark guidelines, the Bodie Bowl must be withdrawn from mining and the California Mecreation of the California Mecreation of the Mistoric Landmark guidelines, the Bodie Bowl must be withdrawn from mineral entry.

Specific Points:

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The RMP/EIS states, "the areas likely to experience development are those within or near mining districts" (p. 180). Where are these historical mining districts (p. 180). When the mining districts are the mining districts (p. 180). When the mining districts are the mining districts of the state of the mining districts are districted for a standard operating procedures need to be developed and presented in the NMP/EIS, specific for the described for mining in appendix 7. Lichon to the few described for mining in appendix 7.

92-20 What is the difference between areas being "effectively withdrawn" from mineral development (p.93), areas withdrawn, and areas where minerals cannot be developed, in terms of management policy?

Table 2-1 (p.37) lists 2,000 acres of locatable minerals withdrawals under all alternatives. Are these Dogtown and Bishop Petroglyph Loop lands? The location of these areas are not made evident in the plan.

92-22 Under the Area-Wide Alternatives and Rationale for Preferred Alternative[p.39-50] the geothermal and salable minerals are limited to the "constraints of the plan." Are the constraints merely the areas delineated by the maps? "Constraints', in management terms, need explanation.

92.23 The RMP/EIS states, "[d]evelopment of 5% of the placer gold deposits may be restricted on 10 creeks due to wild and scenic river interim management policy" [p.198/Alt. 4).

Where are these placer gold deposits?

92.24

Potential monetary losses of 59 million in locatables and the conclusion of the preferred alterative, yet an explanation of the preferred alterative, yet an explanation of how these figures were determined is absent in the plan. Are these figures near of the conclusion of the preferred alterative, yet and explanation of how these figures were determined is absent in the plan. Are these figures net or gross losses? How were these monetary figures determined?

An explanation of how mining restrictions in the Bodie Bowl 92-25 represent a \$1 billion dollar loss and reduction in 250 jobs, from potential developments under Alternatives 1 and 2, must be presented (p.199/Alt. 4).

Mineral location withdrawals along the Pat Keyes Trail are essential.

VISUAL RESOURCES:

The Bishop PA contains some of the most spectacular visual resource qualities in the nation. The fantastic descent of the Sierra Newada Mountain Range is nowhere more dramatic than in the Owens Valley. The contrast between the wooded, grandiose Sierras and the dry, austers mountains of the high desert Basin and Range is superb—and visible at a variety of panorant viewpoints in do not go unappreciated. The MRF/RIS acknowledges this in its statement that, "[v]isitors to the eastern Sierra are attracted by its magnificent scenery"[0,117]. These visual resources deserve the unnost protection in the RRF/RIS.

The RMF/RIS assigns VNM classifications to some RA lands, but falls short in its attempt to protect visual resources using this method. First, the VMM maps presented in the plan are small special, and staining boundary determinations difficult for the classified lands. Why were VRM maps produced in only page size, while Land Status, Vagetation, Land Use, etc. were given much land the control of the produced in the plan are small produced in the plan are produced in the plan are small produced in the plan are plan are produced in the plan are produced in

Second, description of impacts to visual resources resulting from route designations is nonspecific and difficult to follow. The preferred alternative states that, "impacts to visual resources from route designations would be the same as Alternative 3"(p.183). Upon reading substantive 3" we find that, than Alternative 3 and 2." Desding use all planal resources more than Alternative 3 and 2." Desding use 3.

answers. In Alternative 2 there is no reference to route designations(except by the word "etc." (n p.182). In Alternative 1 the RMP/EIS uses only general terms to describe "[s]ome slight to moderate localized benefits to visual resources would occur from ...2) route designations, especially in Bridgeport, Long Valley, Bodie Hills, and Owens Valley MAs where hillside road scars would be eliminated"(p.182). The public has no idea of the specific areas involved, the amount of land disturbed or protected by route designations and is given no information on how these designations are to be conducted. It is impossible to form an opinion on this aspect of the plan when the presentation

Third, although the RMP states that "LADWP lands are not managed primarily for scenic values" (p.182), what will happen in the case that the watershed withdrawals are revoked? How will these lands be managed for visual resources? Areas proposed for acquisition should be pre-designated as VRM class I, II, or III in the RMP/EIS.

Finally, the impacts that the proposed transmission line corridor would have on BLM lands are given only cursory review in the RMP/EIS. One sentence of description in each of only two of the four alternatives does not constitute an adequate analysis of impacts to the resources involved(p.183). Further, VRMs are one of the main ways the RMP/EIS proposes to manage mining and minerals development, yet the impacts to visual resources are described in two pages. This is a wholly insufficient analysis. NEPA demands more detail.

From the short, nonspecific definitions of VRM standards provided in Appendix 4 the BLM cannot ensure that "unnecessary and undue degradation," as prohibited by the Federal Land Policy Management Act/43 U.S. C. § 1732(b)), is prevented. Each VRM needs more specific policy definitions, embracing known and predicted future activities to be allowed, degrees of actions to be authorized, and substantive constraints to protect scenic qualities. Without any specifics it is impossible to effectively manage areas in the Bishop RA by the decisions set forth in the RMP/EIS.

Specific Points:

of the subject is so ambiguous.

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The RMP/EIS states that "[a]ctions violating VRM classes will not be allowed"(p.27, Area Manager's Guidelines). This seems to be in conflict with the mineral exploration maps

for Alternatives 3 & 4. Regarding the statement that, "[1]ocatable mineral development would adversely affect short segments of

viewsheds (between 20 and 40 miles) at specific locations along Federal, state and county roads" (p. 182-183/Alt. 3 & 4). We disagree that these are considered short segments of viewsheds. Assumptions need to be explained.

92-33 183) are left unexamined by the RMP/EIS. What are these benefits and how are there impacts determined?

92-34

Recreation is highly important in the Eastern Sierras as a whole representing the primary use in the Forest Service Inyo National Forest and increasing use, in intensity and diversity throughout the BLM Bishop Resource Area. It is imperative that the RMP/EIS land use plans take into consideration increasing recreational uses, such as Off Road Vehicle(ORV) riding, and propose supplementary plans to protect resources which are increasingly threatened by recreational uses.

The "additional benefits to scenery in 105,000 acres" (p.

The plan is most deficient in its coverage of Special Resource Management Area(SMRA) direction, with limited amounts of actual management determinations. Some direction is given in the Area-Wide Alternative, which states that it will manage the Bodie Bowl SRMA "to preserve Bodie's historic integrity," and manage the Alabama Hills SMRA "to provide a variety of recreation and to protect the unique geologic features and scenic values" (p.49). Further, a few objectives are also presented in the MA Alternatives for Bodie Bowl SMRA(p.65, Bodie Hills MA, Alt. 4) and the Alabama Hills SMRA(p.82, Owens Valley MA, Alt. 4), including VRM standards. However, these general management directives in no way constitute the requirements for resource management planning determinations, as spelled out in the BLM Manual (Release 1-1470, 11/14/86, §1623.41A). SRMA direction should include, but is not limited to:

(1) identifying the physical, social and managerial settings that are to be maintained, and the recreational activities that are to be provided. (2) identifying general recreation management strategies,

- including major actions that may be required to maintain approved settings and limitations that may have to be placed on other potential land uses,
- (3) and establishing activity planning priorities (Id. 61623.42a-d).

Additionally, the lands of these SRMAs, particularly Bodie 92-35 Bowl, are in currently poor condition. There exists a very real and serious threat to the unique environments in these areas from the continued use of ORVs. Because of this it is paramount that the RMP/RTS also include designations of all public lands in the SRMA as either open, closed, or limited to ORV use. These designations must be delineated on a map and any special limitations must be clearly described and fully substantiated in

appropriate sections of the RMP/EIS(Id., §1623.42e). The Impacts on Recreation Opportunities section of the 92-36

RMP/EIS is also deficient, beginning with a general, unsupported statement, "[t]his alternative would provide recreation

opportunities and experiences resulting in a user satisfaction 92-36 level of above average to high" (p.185). It is important to provide the public with a reference when using words such as 'average' and 'high'. Explain how these determinations are made. Without such clarification, the statement is meaningless to the reader.

Specific Points:

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Alternatives 3 & 4 propose the prohibition of snowmobiling on 5,700 acres of sage grouse wintering areas in the Bodie Hills MA. where "low use" has been noted (n. 185). How are these usage determinations and boundaries to the prohibition determined?

The RMP/EIS states, "[s]ome hot tubs would be closed or mitigated to protect wildlife or wetlands"(p.186/Alt.4). Which areas, in specific, would be closed and which resources would be protected in particular? Plans to promote "hot tubbing" in the Long Valley area appear to conflict with goals to prevent degradation of unique

habitats at hot springs.

The preferred alternative explains that fishing opportunities would increase an average of 26% in the Coleville, Bridgeport Valley, Owens Valley and Bodie Hills MAs, due to grazing restrictions, diversion limitations, and habitat improvement projects. How was the percentage figure derived? Is this a land acreage figure? Also, the habitat improvement projects, diversion limitations and grazing restrictions, if explained elsewhere in the document, need to be referenced in this section of the RMP/EIS. No new route designations should be made unless they are

balanced by the reclamation of existing routes and/or scars. For example, the two additional 4WD connector routes proposed in the preferred alternative in the Bodie Hills should be matched, mile for mile, with reclaimed,

recontoured and revegetated roads.

We disagree with the statement in the preferred alternative of the RMP/EIS stating, "[a] salable mineral prohibition in south Tableland would maintain natural values in perpetuity"(p.187). Are there other potential uses of the land in exception to salable mineral development? It is doubtful that the natural values of the area could be maintained in perpetuity on a salable mineral withdrawal

What is the 'long term', in reference to the plan statement that "portions of Dog Creek and Virginia Creek under the present mineral withdrawal (160 acres) would be protected in the long term"(p.187)? What does this represent in years?

Most visitors desire a primitive experience in the Slinkard Valley and the need for a trail in ACEC unwarranted.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING:

Grazing on Bureau lands within the Bishop RA is a major threat to wildlife populations in the planning area. Livestock grazing as currently permitted by the Bureau is harming riparian resources, water quality and wildlife values. Damages to one vegetative resource are recorded in the RMP/EIS which reveals a distressing trend. A 1980 study found 86% of an 887 acre of aspen habitat in good to excellent vegetative condition and a 1988 resurvey found only 21% in good to excellent vegetative condition(p.132). Moreover, comparison of conditions described in the earlier EISs and data in Table 3-7(p.134) of the RMP/EIS further supports the conclusion that ecological conditions have not improved at all. Disclosure of data which clearly documents the declining condition of the range since the MFP's were implemented is required by NEPA and would reveal the need to overhaul the grazing analysis in the RMP/EIS.

Damage by grazing is also documented to state-listed 92-44 threatened and endangered plants, and federal candidate plant species. The plan states that, "[s]ome sensitive plant habitats are currently being degraded by the effects of summer-long continuous livestock use. In some cases, plant vigor has been reduced and the ability of plants to flower and disperse seed is adversely affected*(p.136). Do these examples indicate the trend for the overall vegetative and ecological condition in the RA? The damages to vegetative resources discussed above may constitute a violation section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The RMP/EIS must disclose new information on the current 92-45 status of the grazing allotment lands including all cumulative impacts to Management Areas that have occurred over the last ten years. Further, the BLM is obligated to provide more information about the grazing program in the plan than is provided in Appendix 5 to describe the "ecological status" (BLM Manual, Release 1-1469, 11/14/86, §1622.31A2). Pursuant to the BLM Manual the resource management plan must address:

(1) grazing management actions, identifying the basic treatments that may be used to meet management objectives and the general types, locations and magnitude(miles, acres, number) of range improvements

for allotments, (2) constraints on livestock grazing, identifying types of constraints to protect or enhance other resource values, such as riparian areas, threatened and endangered species, crucial wildlife habitat, and wild

horse or burro habitat and including special management activities to protect or enhance those values, (3) and, use adjustment criteria, establishing general guidelines or criteria for guiding future adjustments

in stocking levels, season of use, or other grazing management activities(Id., §1622.31A3b.c.e).

Repardless of the lack of critical grazing information the grazing discipliness of the conditions on two outdated documents, the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing Eise(p.25). No reasoning to support the validity of these >-10 year each of the second through the condition of the co

Specific Points:

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- he MA alternatives list the changing from cattle to sheep as a decision throughout various areas in the RA(e.g., p.201/Alt. 3 £ 4). What is the reasoning behind this? Are there economic, ecological or sanagement advantages to such a change? If evidence exists, supporting the chast chart should be explained.
- 92-48 | How exactly will the Bureau actions, "force 4 sheep operators out of business"(p.201/Alt. 3 & 4)?
 - operators out of Dusiness [p.247/Aion of the RA's overall transparent of the RA's overall graning on the rate of t
 - Data is needed to document the <u>current</u> overall ecological condition of the range in the Bishop Resource Area, as is shown by results collected since implementation of the EISs for the MFPs, nearly ten years ago.
 - The RMY/ZIS states that, "development or revision of 10 MNP's and construction of new range improvements have improved livestock distribution causing a subsequent improvement in ecological vegetation condition and wildlife habitat" (p.143). Data is needed to support this finding. In addition, which are the 10 AMPs mentioned?

WILDLIFE:

- Considering the plethora of wildlife inhabiting the bishop 92-52 PA lands the RMP/EIS does little to describe impacts to these species. The plan heavily stresses the protection of a very limited number of harvest species and excludes the bulk of wildlife populations associated with range, river and riparlan econvatures.
- Among the few species discussed are mule deer, tule elk, 92-53 quali, sage grouse, and promptonr—all huntable species. The plan also documents a significant degree of negative impacts to these species: "...age grouse habitat and populations slightly diminished(p.189): ...decline in quali habitat and numbers regionwide(p.189): ...cumulative regionwide deer habitat and populations would be moderately degraded(p.191); and ...cumlative effect would be a slight negative impact on overall

18

Tule eik habitat conditions(p.192). The impacts to sensitive sensi

The discussion of impacts to threatened and endangered processes in outlandship short. The preferred alternative includes only a general attemment, referencing only 3 or the 32 includes only a general attemment, referencing only 3 or the second of the second only a continue which may affect these federally endangered species: Owens tuichub, Owens pupiish and Ishontan outthroat trout(p.197) are completed attemption of the second of t

Further, the BIM requires the BMP to "(d)stermine affirmative conservation measures to improve habitat conditions and resolve resource confilicts for listed, proposed and candidate species*(BLB Manual, Release 1-1465, 11/14/68, 11622.11312) at this plan which leaves 90% of the threatened and endangered species unexamined. The provisions in the Endangered Species Act further explicate the need for more details in the document's discussion of impacts to threatened and endangered species. The plan must detail which specific foreseeable actions may or candidate species in reference to specific locations in the RA.

For each section on wildlife impacts we have listed a number of points needing clarification in the final RMP/EIS. These are as follows:

Impact on Sage Grouse and Quail:

72-54
The RMP/EIS submits up to 64 increases in Sage grouse populations through key habitat improvements, and quail population decreases of up to 74[p.189, Alt. 4]. Supporting data and/or references are needed to explain the derivation of these flutres.

Impact on Mule Deer:

- The Alternative 4 the PMP/EIS lists regionwide actions affecting mule deer habitat, including highway expansion and ski area development(p.191), yet these actions are not described anywhere in the document. Are these proposed actions involving BUM lands? If so, where are they proposed? When and what do they entail?
 - In the Impacts on Mule Deer section of the RMP/EIS the statement is made that, "[d]eer mortalities from vehicle collisions substantially reduce the regional deer

92-57 cont. population"(p.191/Alt. 4). What affect will the proposed highway expansion have on the regional deer populations? Hydroelectric projects along some major streams are predicted to eliminate or reduce the size of riparian areas and negatively affect deer habitats(p.191). The projects and streams involved and the potential threats to the deer

habitat must be specifically described.

Impact on Tule Elk:

92-58

92-59

Disturbances to tule elk habitat conditions, listed in the preferred alternative, do not include the transmission line corridor. This will clearly have impacts to tule elk habitat conditions and impacts must be described.

habitat conditions and impacts must be described.

In the regional of the less humbers would be expected to remain near current levels or decline slightly*(p.192). This is not an acceptable conclusion for the natural resource enhancement alternative whose purpose is to environment*(p.15). The condition of the natural resource enhancement alternative whose purpose is to environment*(p.15).

Impact on Pronghorn:

What are the 8 allotments on which an increase in forage will be allocated to pronghorn(p.194/Alt. 4)?

The RMF/RIS states that the, "[s]ubdivision of private lands for residential development is expected to fragment promptor habitat on the White Mountain bajada," but does development, or does be document provide sape to describe these areas. If commercial and private land developments are to be used describing impacts to native vitality, then these areas meet to be defined and more adequately described direct and indirect, to public lands resources [p. 194/Alt. direct and indirect, to public lands resources [p. 194/Alt.]

The preferred alternative mentions the disposal of BLM lands in the areas of Benton and Rammil Valley which would contribute to development impacts on promptor habitat(p. 194). Again, these disposals need referencing, at minimum, in the impacts section.

Impact on Riparian and Fisheries Habitat:

92-60

The habitat improvement projects, among the many other factors affecting riparian and fisheries habitat in the Bishop Resource Area need to be referenced, if described in greater detail elsewhere in the document (p.195). What are the "[p]redicted increases in recreation levels."

which would, "increase demand for riparian and fisheries resources and compound existing impacts."? The RMP/EIS explains that, "[i]mprovements in habitat conditions would also increase fisheries productivity, and

help meet the growing demand for riparian and fisheries

92-60 cent.

92-61

resources." What methods will be used to balance the protection and the recreational use of these resources? Are there specific fish levels where use must terminate and protective measures begin? In addition, how is the productivity and ecological "health" of a riparian area measured and monitored?(p.195).

Impact on Threatened and Endangered Species:

What are the 14 populations of 4 sensitive animal species that would be substantially impacted by locatable mineral development(p.197)?

The management of 81,000 acres out of 750,000, for threatened and endangered species comprises roughly only 10% of the resource area. This is a completely inadequate amount(p.197).

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS:

Of the 750,000 acres to be managed by the RMP/RIS, 288,618 acres are designated wilderness study areas(RSA). These lands encompass some unique and varied Great Basin habitats including: the Silnkard Valley, adjacent to the Carcon-Icobery Wilderness; Mountain and Walford Springs east of Mono Lake; the Volcanic Tablelands-Fish Slough area north of Bishop; and Sp. 000 acres in the southern Inyo Mountains. These lands were designated to secure and preserve untransled lands from development and maintain them for possible future inclusion into the national wilderness system.

92-62

The RMP/RIS almost completely ignores the subject of WSAs. Aside frost the insufficient acreage recommended for the Southern Inyo Kountains by the 1987 Benton-Owens Valley/Bodie-Coleville Final Wildermess EIS, no ther WSA leads are identified or described. This lack of information regarding 17 other WSAs within the Mt that can still be considered for wildermess does within the Nicht Can still be considered for wildermess does 1470, 11/14/86, \$1623.61A) states, "(t)hrough resource management planning, areas identified as having wildermess characteristics are evaluated to detormine if they are suitable or not suitable for preservation as wildermess."

The RMF/RIS must include complete descriptions of each WSA within the Bishop RA, assess their potential for wilderness, and submit recommendations, or make firm plans to do so in an RIS supplement or addendum. In addition, the 18 WSAs and the Section 202 WSAs, completely left out of the plan, should be identified for the primary purpose of ensuring that they are treated as de many purpose of ensuring that they are treated as de MSA wilderness in California. Wilderness recommendations should include much sore than 27,420 acres for the South Inny Momntains.

as well as acreage in the Granite Mountain area, Bodie Hills, and the Volcanic Tableland.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND AUTHORIZATIONS:

A number of the proposed land acquisitions are well chosen properties and would greatly aid in the preservation of unique 92-63 habitats in the Bishop Resource Area. These include: the Conway Ranch which contains a unique trans-montane alkali marsh would be protected from commercial hotel development; areas around Black Take which would protect important bird nesting areas; and Cinnamon Meadows, which is presently open for purchase. The fate of these and many other special areas, if unacquired, need discussion in the RMP.

The congressional watershed withdrawals established by Congressional Executive Order in the 1930's should not be revoked across the board without firm plans to acquire and protect every acre of the released lands. As they stand now, the withdrawals provide protection on 600,000 acres of public land from development and degradation. We are concerned that revocation of the Act of Congress of 1931 will affect not only federal water rights on Bureau land, but also federal reserved water rights on lands within the Mono Basin which could severely impact lands in the basin and in the RA.

Specific Points:

92-64

92-65

The map portraying existing watershed withdrawals is incomplete. The Scenic Area, while under Forest Service jurisdiction, also has withdrawn lands and that status should be shown(p.141).

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

A number of projects are listed for development under the preferred alternative, including: an environmental education center; programs with schools; and numerous interpretive plans. However, these potential projects are inadequately described(p.205). Since "funding is allocated on the basis of needs identified in plans such as this [the RMP/EIS]"(Bishop RA BLM Letter, 12/21/90). The more specific the projects can be described, the better the chance actualization. The project descriptions should include locations of future sites of centers and displays, methods of implementing programs, and time-frames for project commencement (p. 205).

The RIM Manual (Release 1-1470, 11/14/86, \$1623,11A2) states that a resource management plan must, "[i]dentify management actions necessary to achieve the management objectives." The RMP/EIS proposes some fine management goals, including, those to "...protect and interpret the historic Doqtown site(p.60/Alt. 4). "...[flormulate guidelines to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation in the Bodie Historic Landmark(p.66/Alt. 4), and "...[d]evelop an activity plan for stabilization, restoration and

22

interpretation of Manzanar"(p.82/Alt. 4). There is no description of any specific actions that will be used to achieve 2-65 these management goals. Management actions, as prescribed by the BLM Manual for RMPs, may include but are not limited to "[describing] special cultural resource considerations that may affect the location, timing, or method of development or use of other resources in the planning area; "...[identifying] measures potentially needed to protect cultural resources; ...establish[ing] conditions under which cultural resources to be managed for information potential may be studied or

Specific Points:

utilized"(Id., §1623.11A2a,c,d).

The RMP/EIS states that, "[a]cquisition of 1700 acres of 2-66 LADWP land at Manzanar would allow protection and interpretation of a significant historic resource which is currently deteriorating" (p.205). There is no description of this historic resource in the Affected Environment section of the RMP/EIS.

FIRE SUPPRESSION:

Full fire suppression throughout most of the resource area is not necessary. Full suppression of fires is an outdated 2-67 practice which neglects the values of fires in the natural evolution of plant and animal communities. As stated by the RMP/EIS, full fire suppression "would result in increased use of dozers, and require increased knowledge and vigilance by BLM resource advisors"(p.205), causing added damages to the environment and an additional financial burden on the BLM.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP/EIS for the Bishop RA. We look forward to a timely response to our concerns. Please send us a copy of any supplement or addendum, and the revised draft of this document when it is available.

Regional Director

Public Lands Analyst

: Johanna Wald, Natural Resources Defense Council Sally Miller, Priends of the Inyo Emily Strauss, Desert Survivors

bishopra.rmp/mg2

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 92 (The Wilderness Society)

- 92-1) See response 51-1. An index has been added.
- 92-2) Specific activity plans also require an environmental document. Exact methodologies will be determined at that point. Some guidelines are provided for ACEC plans. Each time an ACEC is designated in the plan (for example, p.86, left column, 4th paragraph in the draft) the purpose of the ACEC is given along with several guidelines for its management. These guidelines will be the foundation of the ACEC's activity plan. Except for this foundation, activity plan development is completely separate from RMP development.
- 92-3) The period of time for which a seasonal restriction would apply would be dependent on the species/habitat to be affected by an action. As an example, using the seasonal protection on p.50 (draft RMP) covering the area up%to two miles from a sage grouse strutting ground, discretionary actions could be prohibited between 5/1 6/30.

The target resources used in the seasonal and yearlong protection definitions are those vegetation types or wildlife habitats referenced within the decision.

Discretionary actions are anything for which a permit or other decision document is required (e.g. powerline construction, road expansion, stream diversions, etc.).

- 92-4) No specific dates for preparation/implementation of management plans (as an example) are given due to the uncertainty of funding and availability of personnel.
- 92-5 Wording in Area Manager's guidelines which requires a judgement determination (like 'actions that will interfere significantly...) are intended to provide flexibility in decision making for the manager. Guidelines are not mandatory actions (like decisions), but are general procedures directed at broad resource tooics.

92-6) The sentence is incorrect and has been deleted in the final. The "sixteen major proposals" were listed in an internal memo that specified sixteen 'areas of concern,' some of which were thought to require plan amendment or revision.

The concerns, listed in the August 26, 1987 memo from the District Manager to the Associate State Director, Lands and Renewable Resources were:

- Conformance with the Mammoth/June Lake Airport Plan:
 This concern was resolved by an amendment to the Benton/Ovens Valley Management Framework Plan. The amendment was approved by the State Director on September 14, 1989. It is the first decision of the proposed plan for the Long Valley Management Area.
- 2) Department of Fish and Game concern regarding a proposed disposal near Rovana: This disposal was not included in the preferred alternative. It is important deer habitat and the County has not recently identified a need for urban expansion in that area.
- Utility Corridor Study: This was done in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest and included as part of the RMP.
- Needed changes regarding vegetation conversion and fire management in the Bodie Hills: This was addressed in the BMP
- Vehicle use designation in the Bodie Hills: In the RMP the area is designated as limited to designated roads and trails.

- 6) Unnecessary seasonal use limitations: In keeping with the effort to have the RMP establish resource condition objectives rather than set up a series of restrictions on activities, seasonal use limitations in the plan (i.e., seasonal protection) have been written to allow their waiver if target species are not adversely affected. Under the previous management framework plans, adjustments in seasonal use restrictions required plan amendments; under the RMP such amendments will not be necessary.
- Land ownership adjustments including agricultural use and disposals: This was addressed in the RMP.
- Changed management direction for woodland products: This was addressed in the RMP.
- Incorporation of wilderness recommendations into existing plans: This was done in the RMP.
- Vehicle use designation in the Benton/Owens Valley Management Framework Plan area: This was done in the RMP.
- 11) Concerns about grazing management categories, grazing suitability, allocations, etc.: Changes necessary to achieve established resource condition objectives will be made based on monitoring and through consultation with permittees and using the coordinated resource management planning process where appropriate. Grazing allocations, etc. are generally not addressed in the RIMP.
- 12) BLM responsibility regarding relicted land around Owens Lake: This issue came up because of federal/state court cases on relicted lands around Mono Lake. However, we discovered a March 23, 1917 Secretarial Order stating that the Owens Lake relicted lands belong to the state. Thus, there is no need to pursue the issue further.

- Issues related to new data/direction stemming from updated Forest Service and County plans: This was covered in the RMP.
- 14) Issues related to natural hazards in certain areas; Earthquake and avalanche hazard areas were considered in the RMP process. However, no decisions were modified because of those concerns.
- Consideration of specific areas for mineral withdrawals: This was done in the RMP.
- Management problems in Slinkard Valley: This was addressed in the RMP.
- 92-7) See response 51-1.
- 92-8A) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 92-8B) See response 21-1. The impacts section of the draft RMP (pages 206-210) does not cite any unacceptable environmental impacts which would be caused by transmission line use through the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area.
- 92-8C) See the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 92-8D) The visual resource inventory systems of the BLM and Forest Service are based upon the appearance of landscapes as viewed from designated travel routes (roads, highways, tralls, waterways, etc). Those systems are used to develop visual resource management objectives and to evaluate visual impacts.
- 92-8E) The impacts of transmission line corridor use within the Pizona Alternative Corridor Area are documented on pp.206-207 of the draft BMP.

- 92-8F) See the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 92-8G) The corridor study did consider a No Action. No East-West Corridor Alternative (identified on p.90, draft RMP). The need analysis (Appendix 8) does state that distance separation of individual transmission lines within a corridor helps to mitigate the potential for simultaneous forced outages. The analysis also states (on p.295) that the existing Boulder/IPP corridor is occupied by 3 high voltage AC lines and one high-voltage DC line. When a single corridor is transmitting a major portion of the peak load requirements of a city the size of Los Angeles (as the Boulder/IPP corridor does), the potential is high for major widespread outages from a disruption that could simultaneously affect all the lines within the corridor. That potential significantly increases with each additional line. The need analysis documents what could potentially occur from such a disruption. So while the designation and use of new corridors may be environmentally less desirable than adding to existing corridors. those environmental impacts can be outweighed by the negative impact of decreasing system reliability by overloading already heavily used existing corridors.
- 92-8H) See the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.

As for corridor expansion south of Bishop, p.49 of the draft RMP states that the first applicant for a R-O-W in either of the north-south corridors will be responsible for conducting a study to determine the remaining capacity of that corridor.

92-80 The environmental impacts within the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area to wild horse habitats, mule deer habitats, human exposure to EMF, and recreation uses would be either nonexistent or significantly less than in the other two east-west amas considered.

Visual resource impacts would be greatest in the Queen Valley Alternative Corridor Area.

One of the greatest benefits that the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area has over the other two areas is that a transmission line project proposed to carry power through that area from the east, then through the Owens Valley to Southern California, would require 60 fewer miles of line to be built within the Owens Valley (along the Intertie Route) than would a line located through either of the other east-west areas considered. The final RMP has been revised to more clearly state the advantages of the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area over the Queen Valley and Pizona corridor areas.

- 92-8J) See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study.
 - 2-8K) See the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.

The 'brief studies' conducted by adjacent BLM jurisdictions were simply cursory analyses of existing land use allocations and resource values on lands which they administer. The results, used as working papers in the environmental analysis, indicated that there were no land use allocations nor resource values immediately to the east of the three east-west alternative corridor areas which would necessarily preclude the eastward extension of a corridor.

- 92-8L) See the general response for the corridor study.
- 92-9) In reference to the first paragraph, please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).

In reference to the second paragraph, the remainder (approximately 94%) of the plant composition in the bristlecone and limber pine area is to be maintained according to its current makeup as long as the composition includes only native species. Our present understanding of this area indicates the species assemblage has not been recently disturbed.

In reference to the third paragraph, no DPCs will be managed to promote introduced (exotic) species.

In reference to the fourth paragraph, the riparian DPCs are specific concerning the amount and structural diversity important to providing a completely functional riparian zone. Non-native species (e.g. tamarisk-athel and saltcedar) are to be eliminated.

In reference to the fifth and sixth paragraphs please refer to the DPC general statement.

In reference to the first two Specific Points, please refer to the DPC general statement.

The types of vegetation potentially affected by locatable mineral development include single leaf pinyon - Utah juniper, Great Basin big sagebrush-bitterbrush, blackbrush scrub, shadscale scrub, and mixed desert shrub.

The regional improvements include actions taken by the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests to improve vegetation communities like riparian and meadow areas.

92-10) Our response to this comment is included in the minerals general response, (p.5-13), item 3.

The establishment of an ACEC does not withdraw an area from mining. For locatable minerals, it does mean that a plan of operation is needed for all operations, even if they are less than 5 acres in size.

Areas closed to mineral entry are depicted on draft RMP land use restriction maps. All other areas are open to mineral exploration and development, but with a variety of environmental restrictions as described by the draft RMP. Narratives of the withdrawals are in Chapter 3 of the final plan. Impacts to minerals are addressed in Chapter 4.

92-11) See general response for minerals, item 3.

Impacts to threatened and endangered species will be addressed on a case-by-case basis as mining proposals are made in separate NEPA (EA or EIS) documentation. If a conflict

is determined to exist, via a USFWS Section 72 decision, the Endangered Species Act gives the Bureau the authority to override the 1872 Mining Law.

92-12) A locatable minerals inventory was conducted as part of the procedure for creating mineral potential maps. These were not included in the draft RMP but may be found in the final document.

See general response for minerals.

- 92-13,14,15) See the general responses for minerals and for Bodie (p.5-5).
- 92-16) The visual resource management (VRM) class for the Bodie Bowl ACEC has been modified to a Class II in the final RMP. The intent is to use the VRM class as a resource condition standard to retain the existing character of the landscape which is more appropriate to management of the scenic values in the Bodie Bowl. Under this standard, the Bureau can manage the ACEC resources more effectively.

The ACEC prescription has also been modified in the final RMP. Since the overall objective is to protect the historic integrity and scenic quality of the area, limits of acceptable change will be developed which identify standards and thresholds for all surface disturbing activities. These standards will be developed in the upcoming ACEC activity plan. No surface disturbance activities will be approved until the NEPA and Section 106 cultural resource consultation process is complete. For further information, refer to the queneral response for Bodie.

- 92-17) The decisions will not wait for the National Park Service to complete their study. We have coordinated with them. See general Bodie response.
- 92-18) Page 136, draft RMP, has a listing of the mining districts. The locations of these mining districts may be found on U.S.G.S. topographic maps and BLM Land and Mineral Ownership maps for those areas.

- 92-19) Site-specific methods of mitigation will be addressed in separate NEPA documentation.
- 92-20) The term 'effectively withdrawn' has been eliminated from the final. Only those areas for which formal withdrawal classification has been made will be withdrawn from mineral exploration and development.
- 92-21) The locations of mineral withdrawals are depicted on draft RMP land use restriction maps.
- 92-22) The term 'constraints of the plan' referred to the overall picture of resource management as described by the plan. It is not used in the final RMP.
- 92-23) It is not possible for us to predict exactly where future mineral discoveries will be made. The mineral potential maps represent our best estimate of the areas where exploration and development are most likely to occur. Since placer gold deposits are likely to occur any stream that drains gold-bearing watershed, all of the streams have potential gold.
- 92-24) See general responses for minerals and for Bodie.
- 92-25) See response 54-4, and general Bodie response.
- 92-26) The Visual Resource Management (VRM) maps were produced at a page-sized scale due to document size limitations. They are meant to augment the verbal descriptions found in Chapter 2 of the text. The computerized mapping system used in the Bishop Resource Area is scale independent. It can mix scales without affecting map accuracy. The VRM data were entered at 1:100000 scale, but the computer can compare the VRM data with any data in the system. Therefore all management decisions regarding VRM are equally valid with management decisions based on larger scale maps.
- 92-27) Site-specific impacts to visual resources will be addressed in the activity plan process. For information on the designation process, see general response to comments on OHV

- management. The final RMP gives a brief clarification of impacts to visual resources from route designations. Please see Chapter 4 of the final RMP for further information.
- 92-28) See general response for watershed withdrawals. The City of Los Angeles does not own any property rights on the watershed withdrawals. Acquired lands will take on the VRM classification of the contiguous BLM land.
- 12-29) Bureau lands in the Bishop Resource Area comprise a small part of the surface area in the utility line corridor scenarios, Additionally, more detailed analyses of impacts to visual resources would be addressed in site-specific proposals.
- 92-30) The specificity you describe falls outside the scope of this RMP. Standards and constraints would be described in site-specific activity plans. Tools such as limits of acceptable change would be developed in these plans. The proposed Bodie Bowl ACEC activity plan is a good example of this.
- 92-31) The final RMP contains parameters for the visual resource management classes. These are described in Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures.
- 92-32) This impact has been modified in the final RMP (Chapter 4) to reflect a scenario where mineral development would be required to conform to the visual resource standard. The modified impact scenarios were based on a general review of what contrasts might be seen at localized areas under the visual resource management parameters described in Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures of the final RMP. In the absence of a specific proposal, it was assumed that contrasts allowed to exceed the VRM class would generally be isolated to localized viewsheds outside key observation points. When proposals are submitted, a site-specific analysis of visual resource impacts will be prepared to better document the potential contrast and mitigations.

- 92-33) A brief statement clarifying these impacts has been added to the final RMP. The 105,000 acre figure represents the total acreage in Alternative 4 where DPC management will be applied.
- 92-34) The draft RMP provides general management direction for the SRMAs in compliance with the supplemental program guidance. Site specific activity pleans will identify measures and standards to accomplish that direction. In general terms, <u>Recreation 2000</u>, <u>A Strategic Plan for California</u> identifies the Alabama Hills and the Bodle Bowl as two priority areas for Bureau management. (See Chapter 3 of the draft RMP, p.120). The draft RMP does not identify activity planning priorities, so that the Bureau may take advantage of unexpected opportunities that often arise. For example, the recent Alabama Hills Film Festival provided an opportunity for the Bureau to work closely with the local community to enhance public appreciation and protection of the area.
- 92-35) Please see response 80-7. Note that the final RMP map identifies the off-highway vehicle open area near Bishop and indicates that all other public lands will be "limited," with a closure provision for the proposed Southern Inyo wilderness. This Alternative 4 map has been included in Chapter 2 (Figures 2-1 and 2-2) of the final RMP and is retitled "Off-Highway Vehicle Designation Map".
- 92-36) The identification of user satisfaction levels was based on the degree of proactive management the Bureau would provide under any given alternative. Since the opportunities for recreation program development were highest under Alternatives 3 and 4, it was projected that user satisfaction would be higher than in the other alternatives. This statement has been modified in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.
- 92-37) Usage determinations were based on professional judgement and field knowledge of snowmobile use in the area. The boundaries of the prohibition were based on sage grouse wintering area locations.

- 92-38) Specific areas to be closed would be identified in an upcoming recreation activity plan for the area. The yearlong protection identified in the areawide alternative, final RIMP, for various wildlile, plant and wetland habitats will guide hot spring management in Long Valley. Hot tubbing would be managed in a manner that is compatible with yearlong protection, but still provide opportunities for recreation use where feasible.
- 92-39) The percentage increase for fishing opportunity was based on the projected improvement to riparian-stream habitat resulting from Alternative 4 decisions for the four management areas. The 26% increase in fishing opportunity is an average figure based on projected increase in fish opolutations.
- 92-40) All new route connectors have been deleted from the final RMP.

 Any new routes would be reconsidered in future activity plans.
- 92-41) In the foreseeable future, material site developments are the most likely activities expected to occur in the south Tableland area. In the past decade, this land use has resulted in the most adverse impacts to the area's semi-primitive values. Chapter 4 of the final RMP clarifies this coint.
- 92-42) By "long term" we mean 5 to 20 years.
- 92-43) Please see response 79-7.
- 92-44) It is BLM policy to conserve state listed and USFWS candidate species/habitats and to ensure that any authorized action will not contribute to the federal listing of any species.

It is assumed that some impacts can and will take place, but authorized actions will not be allowed that would negatively affect the population as a whole. An activerse effect would be an impact that caused an actual loss of plants and/or the population's ability to maintain itself through reproduction, thereby causing an eventual destruction of the population as a whole.

The degradation of sensitive species habitat by grazing cited on p.136 does not apply to all stateen sensitive species and does not mean that species populations are being lost. The BLM will continue to mitigate these impacts, mainly through improved livestock management and exclosures.

The overall vegetative trend is static to upward. See the "Grazing" general response.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act applies only to federal listed species. The Bishop resource area does not have any such plant species. The BLM will continue to consult with USFWS and CDF&G concerning proposed actions which may adversely affect USFWS candidate species and state listed species, respectively.

- 92-45,46) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 92-47) See response 78-23.
- 92-48) The impact on the four sheep operators was based on the following: proposed land acquisition of base properties (operators would lose 50% of the forage due to BLM control of these high production meadows); loss of two key grazing allotments for two operators and 33% of a key allotment for one operator; meeting goals for four DPCs (riparian vegetation, big sagebrush-bitterbrush, springs and associated wellands, aspen groves); proposed private development which would eliminate 640 acres of base properly (high production meadow); increased costs of intensive livestock management; and potential adverse changes on other agency allotments which are used by these operators for their whole operation.

The grazing impact section has been revised and can be found in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.

92-49) Please see the "Grazing" general response.

Since completion of the grazing EISs, 45 out of the 69 allotments have been monitored. The remaining 24 allotments have not been monitored due to limited livestock use on these allotments.

Please see the "Monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP. An area-wide "monitoring" support need has been added to Chapter 2.

- 92-50) Please see the "Grazing" general response.
- 92-51) Within the Bishop resource area, monitoring and field exams have indicated that the most significant causes of negative impacts to vegetation condition have been from poor livestock distribution and not from overstocking. The 10 AMPs and the construction of new range improvements (fences, waters, exclosures,) have improved livestock distribution.

The 10 AMPs are Aurora Carryon CRMP, Travertine Hills CRMP, Little Mormon CRMP, Potato Peak CRMP, M. Biedeman CRMP, Bodie Hills CRMP, Dog Creek AMP, Mono Sand Flat AMP, Adobe Valley AMP, and the Wells Meadow AMP.

- 92-52) Impact assessments are described in a regional context. The more detailed information relating to impacts on resources were the basis for the regional impact descriptions. Impact details are part of the administrative record.
- 92-53) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 92-54) The more detailed information relating to impacts on resources were the basis for the regional impact descriptions. Impact details are part of the public (administrative) record.
- 92-55) Decisions within Alternative 4 provide for adequate "affirmative conservation measures" for the known listed and candidate species in the resource area. Also, please refer to response 92-
- 92-56) The supporting information for the analysis is part of the public (administrative) record.

92-57) Regionwide actions affecting mule deer habitat involved consideration of the probable influence of other land uses on U.S. Forest Service lands, road development by Caltrans and other ongoing or projected uses which would likely affect mule deer habitat.

> Based on current Caltrans figures for mule deer road kills in Mono County, proposed highway expansion and subsequent increase in deer-vehicle hits could result in mortality to approximately 10% of the county deer population, annually. Wording has been added in the final mule deer plan impact analysis which recognizes deer mortalities are expected to increase as U.S. Hidniway 395 is widened to 4 lanes.

> Currently, only one hydroelectric project is proposed for a stream on Bureau land. Potential impact to deer habitat from the project is described in an environmental analysis and is public record. Threats to deer habitat cannot be predicted until a specific hydroelectric project is proposed.

- 92-58) Impacts to tule elk habitat from transmission line corridor adoption are presented on p.209 of the draft RIMP. Your comment concerning the unacceptable nature of the regionwide effect on tule elk numbers has been considered in the final plan.
- 92-59) Improved pronghom forage quality and quantity are projected for allotments 6004 (Fish Slough), 6007 (Volcanic Tableland), 6018 (Hot Creek), 6022 (Wilfred Creek), 6024 (Hammil Valley), 6025 (Marble Creek), 6071 (Bodie Mountain), 6073 (Potato Peak),

Some fragmenting of pronghorn habitat along the White Mountains front would be expected on the proposed land disposal sites (see Alternative 4 Lands and Minerals map, and map on p.126, draft RIMP.)

92-60) Fish and riparian habitat improvement projects currently in place will not be referenced in the RMP, but are available as public record. Projected habitat improvements will not be referenced since they will be part of future activity plans. Statewide figures exhibit an increasing annual trend in number of fishing licenses sold. Some of the increased demand for fishing will likely occur in the eastern Sierra.

Balancing protection and recreational use of the fish resource would depend on an effective public information effort attempting to direct use to some streams over others. Restrictions on fish take are the responsibility of the California Department of Fish and Game.

An intensive stream monitoring survey methodology, available for public review, is used by the Bishop Resource Area to determine the "health" of riparian areas.

92-61) Two populations of speckled dace, one population of Inyo salamander, one population of Owens sand dune snout beetle, and ten colonies of the Pacific western big-eared bat would be affected.

Listed, candidate or sensitive species are restricted, usually, to small geographic areas.

- 92-62) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 92-63) Analysis of the impacts of private development on private land is beyond the scope of the RMP/EIS. These potential impacts can be addressed in site-specific environmental assessments for acquisitions.
- 92-64) See general response for watershed withdrawals.
- 92-65) The specificity you refer to falls outside the scope of this RMP. Project descriptions, locations, etc. would be addressed in upcoming activity plans. Please see the Funding and Activity Level sections in Chapter 1 of the final RMP for further information.

- 92-66) A description of the historic resources was inadvertently omitted from the Affected Environment section because Manzanar is not on BLM land. There are significant historical resources at the site. We are proposing to acquire Manzanar to protect and interpret these resources.
- 92-67) Please refer to response 45-2.

Jan. 14, 1991

Dear BLM.

Nanagement Plan and Environmental legact Statement. Since 1982, I have birded and hiked extensively on eastern Sierra St.1 have birded and hiked extensively on eastern Sierra St.1 lands. I have training as a wildlife biologist and thus will addition of any comments on wildlifer and the st. A state of any comments on wildlifer and will thus confine most of my specific comments to those areas.

General Recommendations.

First, 1 want to relay some general impressions regarding the plan. We pintled reaction was that the document was propressive because, via DPCs, 11 dealt with some of the direct problems facing basic habitates and had a lot of sections and direct regarding land acquisitions. The problems facing had acquisitions are section of the convinced that the document was as forward-thinking as 1 had originally hoped, especially in terms of grazing, documentation of current impacts, and terms of grazing, documentation of current impacts, and remainded of the processing the convertible such as chesical poisoning of sage, improvement of habitat for introduced species such as chular, and promotion of live wood harvesting under the alleged justification of wildlife habitat approvement the alleged lack of faith the benevironmental improvements the document

l was shocked by the decision not to deal with grazing in 93-1 this document. Everytime I hike on BLM lands 1 find collapsed banks, scalded bedding grounds and wetlands pocked by hoof marks and cow pies. Dave Gaines (Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope, Artemisia Press, 1988) writes "East of the crest, grazing by cattle and especially sheep has favored sagebrush over grassland birds. Despite their name, sage grouse have suffered as much as any species, for they depend on grasses and forbs as much as scrub. Vesper sparrows have declined as well" (p.19). Even a 1944 book states that sage grouse were "formerly abundant; now, as a result of intensive sheeping, and of penetration of the country by many roads (facilitating over-hunting), greatly reduced in numbers and localized in occurrence" (Joseph Grinnell and Alden H. Miller The Distribution of Birds of California 1944, p. 117). The previous BLM grazing documents (MFP's) are a decade old, thus completely deficient in evaluating current range conditions, especially in light of more than three subsequent dry years. BLM should be even more embarrassed to ignore grazing issues considering the fact that overgrazing on public lands has become a national issue, featured in innumerable environmental and general interest periodicals. Evan People magazine ran a recent piece on overgrazing (Montana National Forest lands).

- Besides the absence of discussion of grazing, 1 was shocked 9-2 and maddened that wildlife analysis was primarily limited to game species such as deer, promptorn and sage grouse. The BUT RRF efforts to improve wildlife habitat are not far—suching emough (urample: DFCs). BLM is protector of such of the lands of the Great Dasin, most of which suffer from overgrazing. The RRF could provide a unique opportunity to create some true Great Beautiful allowed bubitats). So the Mational Park, which is
- By third major complaint is that the data available in this document is complately inadequate and undocumented. Mildlife issues are summarized on page 23, "Mildlife questions to be resolved include (1) which areas should be sanaped with priority emphasis on wildlife habitat; (2) what should be the habitat; (3) what the process of the process and on an area of the process and on a process were formulated and (b) the Affected Environment section does not start to do justice to the innumerable sensitive plant and animal species present on Brillands, the read of the process of the process
- On a positive note, I must commend the BLM with a proactive statistic towards and acquisition. The time to act is now, before developments are proposed. However, a more complete discussion of how acquired lands would be handled (would they, for instance, be grazed) and also what commenties plan to do with acquired public lands (note is? small businesses?) is information vital to making an informad decision. I cannot agree with any of the proposed land disposals before all the facts are

COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT AREAS (MAS)

Coleville Management Area

The majority of time I've spent in this Me has been birding 35-5 at Topaz Lake. Topaz Lake provides a migratory stopower for numbers of waterfowl, loons, white pelicans and California Gulla. Baid Eagles winter here. Western/Lark's Grebes as wherea here, and although they have no special legal status, they have and although they have no special legal status, they have considered to the status of the status of the status. Topaz Lake has been used as a source of grebe tissue for pesticide and plumage studies (Robert M. Storer and Gary L. Nuschterlein, 1955. An Analysis of Plumage and Morphological Chanceleges of the Ind. (1021)02-119. Because of the lake's

- or great value to witdiise, I seek the plan should be such stronger yes in its approach to preserving/emincing witdlise habitat. This can lake should be surveyed in spring for the presence of breeding birds, such as greiny receipts habitat, should be cordened off from boats and senced from livestock. Mater releasals from this lake should be coordinated with the needs of nextling birds that are area for wildlife is at the south end, where the Mest Malker River empties into the lake. This delta should be strongly considered for acquisition, them senced to prevent when the meaning the second of the s
 - 1 am in support of the decisions/ support needs delineated on pages 51-54 except:
- (1) I have no idea what "improving) habitat diversity for a wildlife in pinyon-juniper stands by opening canopy means. I can't imagine what species it would help. Hamy species, including the pinyon mouse, pinyon jay, etc. depend on p.1 p. the pinyon mouse, pinyon jay, etc. depend on p.1 p. thistich. It sounds like a weak justification for more firewood removal. Stephen Trible writes, "Thirty years (after the 1930's), manipulation of pinyon-juniper woodland has fallen into a disavor. Thate by chaining. On some chaining in Utah the State Department of Mildlife documents increased local use by wall edger, but nowhere have total population in herds of game animals increased on chaining. The effects remain unincomn."

 (The Sapetrush Geem Whit. of Newad Press 1989, p. 157).
- (2) "Increase chukar and quail populations...", "Develop 55-7 water sources for chukar and quail"—These are introduced species th least, Chukar is introduced and, if California quail are indicated rather than sountain quail then 1 believe they too represent an introduced species (Grinnell and Miller do not list native California quail in this locale) (Grinnell and Miller 1944). BLM should place a priority on native species. Only 5% of Californias hunt! What about the rest of us.
- (3) Fire suppression. This, too, is hopelessly outdated. 93-8 Wildfires are a nacessary part of the Eastern Sierra ecology. Plans should be made to integrate modified "let burn" strategy where structures are not threatened. I feel this way for all the MBs allhough have neglected to mention it in each case below.
- The statement "provide recreation opportunities...(for)
 state-food at Topaz Lake" (p. 55) is vague. Increasing
 observation may spook sensitive waterfowl species. Materfowl is
 already severely impacted in the eastern Sierra From hunting.

water-ekiing, float-tube fishing, boats, fluctuating reservoir 39 levels, owergrazing in potential neutring habitat, the est. salinization of Nono Lake (which once supported substantial waterfooth populations) development of wetlands that once supported nesting waterfooth, and last, but not least, water diversions and drowning of wetlands from dam construction.

Neeting DPC goals for only 30 acres of riparian seems like insufficient acreage. I strongly support prohibition of 10 livestock grazing in the Dry Canyon and Slinkard Valley allotaments, as well as prohibition of tiaber harvesting in old growth areas. May does Alternative 4, p. 57 not include 'Identify the salable sineral pit to remain open' (p. 56). Since almost all the material between 3 and 4 is identical, it would the same testes and open to state that rather than reprinting the same testes and open to state that rather than reprinting

am strongly opposed to construction of the Slinkard Creek
931 Tribucry trail (p. 93). The eastern Slerra has already lost
10 enough streamside habitat and wetlands through water diversions.
How would this trail effect countain beaver populations?

Alternative 3 is much stronger on wildlife issues. Under Alt. 3, there is 2700 acres of land acquisition, deer populations may increase 5% more than 4 and DPC management improvements may be stronger (unclear from text) (p. 93).

P. 144-5-- I strongly support control of DMV use along the psi south shore of Topaz Lake. Birdwatching should be added to the 12 list of recreational uses. The stameent "livestock use has been llowered to a point where 50% of the Bureau land is not grazed" is 59150 were 150 miles of the 150 m

Bridgeport MA

When I think of Bridgeport Valley, I think of many miles of cattle, diversion ditches and a pond where once there was a lake (reservoir). Of course, many of these problems are on private land, yet it behooves BLM to do your utmost in preserving remaining wildlife habitat in this unique and beautiful basin.

Everything possible should be undertaken to improve Bridgeport Reservoir for wildlife. It is an important stopover Fridgeport Reservoir for wildlife. It is an important stopover waterfool and shorebirds, as well as neeting orders, Canada Carte Stopover of the Stopover o

93- Sawyer Road colony" Peter Metropulos, pers. comm) which I believe 14 may be on BLM lands. I saw a mink foraging along the reservoir comf. on BLM lands in April 1989.

I have visited both Sinnamon Meadows and the Dynamo Pond
3- areas and strongly support acquisition of these properties. I
15 have hiked twice through Sinnamon Meadows and observed a Cooper's
Hawk (a California Fish and Game Semsitive Species)(CFBSS)) and
Pine Brosboaks. If fenced from grazing, the meadows would
provide specially valuable wildlife habitat. If pof acquired,
these wild and besultful meadows may be developed. There are
we call the seminamonal se

Alt. 3 is the best of the four alternatives because it 93provides for about 700 additional acres of land acquisition and 16 also over 100 extra acres of aspen groves would meet DPC goals. This, however, is still inadequate.

Elimination of grazing at Conway Summit and geothermal development at Travertine Hot Springs are good starting points to turning things around in the Bridgeport MA. I have SERIOUS concerns about releasing several hundred acres of BLM lands to potential town expansion. This is too much too fast.

p. 3-4

"Interpretation of Travertine Hot Springs"—What would this 35 entail? Signs would have to be very subtle or they will 18 interfere with the magic of the place. If interpretative signs age installed, they should educate visitors about the fragility of hot springs and the need to protect them from further develoment tube construction).

"recommended that no grazing be allowed in the proposed Conway 53- Summit ACEC"—Excellent! This area affords important 19 riparian/aspen grove wildlife habitat plus is a deer migration

corridor plus is one of the few Eastern Sierra sites where rednaped sapsuckers nest (Dave Shuford, pers. comm.).

93-20 I don't understand how fuelwood harvesting could EVER improve wildlife habitat. This needs a lot of documentation/explanation.

·p. 57-59

"dispose of 506 acres of Bureau land to provide for residential sepansion and community services"—This is a lot of land. Where 21 would it be? How much expansion? Mould it be on wetlands? This level of development would destroy the small-town feel of

- 93- Bridgeport and seriously impact what little habitat remains in 21 Bridgeport Valley, which suffers from extensive grazing, wh. fluctuating reservoir levels, etc.
- "geothermal exploration and development can occur within the 32 context of the identified goals" Conciterand development aleast 22 always and to the theorem resource. Travertime Hot Springs is completed to the state of the sta
- "Acquire vehicle access to Bureau lands on the west side of 95 Bridopport Reservoir"—I am opposed to this. Materfood and 23 shorebirds utilizing the reservoir are already impacted by the human disturbance factors discussed above under fopaz Lake. The entire east side is roaded and impacted by humans. There is a definite tendency for waterfood to utilize the people-free habitat on the west side. I have seen hundreds of double-crosted corporants rooting on the western rocky above seetern sides, such as Demon Megaato their exposure to people. Also see the witdlife description above.
- "Acquire 2,175 acres of private land to protect riparian areas, villdise habitat, recreation opportunities, etc"—"Yes, I would also add on acquisition of the Malker river delta at the southend of the reserviur, Very important roosting (and nesting?) area for birds.
- "Manage the (Conway Summit) ACEC to enhance dispersed recreation
 popurfurities"—I have reservations about removing orazing only
 \$6 to increase human disturbance. We need a massive revolution in
 reduction of grazing to offset the tremendous decline of wildlife
 habitat in the Eastern Sierra over the last century. But meeds
 to see the control of the co
- "Dispose of 270 acres of Bureau land"—This is still far too much 33- land! Also, I note that mo land is offered for disposal under 4 Alt. 3, which makes see even sore suspicious that it would suffer full buildout or that the 270 acres falls on prime wildlife habitat.

"Acquire 1,338 acres of private land"—this is substantially weakened from the 2,175 acres under Alt. 3, which in itself depen't include the Malker delta described above.

"Manage the marshes in Section 18 and 19 on the west side of Bridgeport Valley for waterfowh hunting and wildlife viewing"— Again, completely unacceptable. See objections above.

Withdraw portions of Dog and Virginia Creeks from mineral

exploration and development—Yes. These creeks have already suffered serious impacts from mining over the last century.

- "Prohibit geothermal leasing within a 1-mile radius of the hot 93- springs"--Yes. Is this far enough? How was the 1-mile radius 27 established? What is known about the thermal aquifer at Travertine?
 - "Allow fuelwood cutting where it will enhance wildlife habitat"-see objections above.

"Acquire access around Bridgeport Res. to enhance recreation opportunities"—No. See above.

95- "Coordinate the relinquishment and rehabilitation of selected mineral material pits with Caltrans"—Good, as long as it doesn't interfere with bank swallow habitat.

Establish wild and scenic river status for Green and Dog Creeks--Yes! Please!

pp. 147-148

93- "Habitat for four sensitive species occurs in the MA""—-which ones? How can l evaluate such a vague statement? All sensitive 37 species habitat should be withdrawn from mineral development.

Bodie Hills Management Area

- 93- P. 4-"yearlong or seasonal protection of sage grouse areas within 2 miles of strutting grounds" etc. What does this mean? What kind of protection?
 - <u>D__63</u>—Acquire 13, 825 acres of private land to enhance wildlife habitat etc. This sounds great! Although it is difficult to evaluate without knowling what will happen to the traded land.
- 13- | "enhance dispersed recreation opportunities" etc. Why is this 3/ necessary, especially with limited funds?
- 93. "Achieve and/or maintain a minimum of 60% ground cover" etc. What does this mean? This is very confusing. How does this mesh with DPC's?
- "Stabilize and restore selected stream channels". This sounds
- Stabilize and restore selected Stream Stabilize and restore selected Stream Stabilize and restore selected Stream Stabilize and Stabilize and

"Bodie Mountain ACEC"--sounds good, at least if ACEC values can really be enforced. p. 64 (also p. 66)

Copper Mountain ACEC, abolition of grazing, etc. l am in favor of this, of course, but l don't think the tradeoff (permitting development at Conway Ranch) to be equitable in terms of wildlife habitat improvement.

В

"Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting...where it will enhance wildlife habitat" See comments above.

"Employ full (fire) suppression". Is this really necessary? Is the Eastern Siera receiving enough fire to maintain a natural 39 ecosystem. This seems to contradict the funl wood harvesting above—are't range fires the most healthful and natural way to maintain a diversity of seral communities? How can fuelwood pathering substitute for natural sirres?

'Designate the Bodie Bowl, the Potato Peak area, the Rough Creek area, and the Beauty Peak area as the Bodie Mountain GECE"—VEB! I once had a great hike up Potato Peak in June. There were hundreds of lugines in full bloom, sage grouse and promphorn. Currant budnes on the north side of Potato Peak provide great additional budness of the CEC glandstorm of the Section Section 18 of Potato Peak provide great also be included in the ACEC glandstorm.

1've also hiked up Beauty Peak, which certainly lives up to its name. There were promphorn here as well. The lake was dry, to tould provide shorebird habitat during wet years. Lots of cows here. Beauty Peak certainly deserves designation as part of the RCEC. I frequently have seen sage grouse in the Bodie Bowl. There is also supposed to be a unique subspecies or race of pika here, though I don't have a citation for this. Through all these areas, I heard singing Wesper Sparrows, which are a disinishing septeruch indicator species by the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Great ER.

the species has been considered to be uncommon and seriously 93-declining as in Lassen County, where no sightings have been 3-reported in the last twenty years...The central Sierra may be

36 reported in the last twenty years... The Central Sterra may be conthe only area in California in which this species is common (Massals of the Mono Lake-Tioga Pass Region—John Harris (1982) Kutsavi Press p. 18).

"Construct the following sountain bike/foot/ horse trails (1) %" from Rough Creek to Milk Ranch Canyon." I as STROMELY opposed to 37 this. In fall, 1990 I hiked about five miles down Rough Creek from Belger Grade. It is extremely easy hiking. It is also extremely wild and primitive, which is the reason I chose this particular nike. There is absolutely no need to create trails in this area which (a) is already easily accessible by horse and foot, and (b) is already extremely degraded in terms of wildlife habitat by grazing—the law are already hundreds of miles of ermittive monds available for mountain bikes.

(n. 44, con.) *(2) along the railroad grade from Mono Basin to 95 Bodie State Park*. I have hiked the railroad grade from Mono 36 Mills to 167. It is like a highway—extremely easy to follow/hike. There is absolutely no reason to waste taxpayers dollars to "isprove" what is there. It would also completely ruin the adventure and remance of hiking the railroad grade. The content Bierra is also remained on this park the content bierra to be a set of the content bierra to be a set of the set of the content bierra is also be a set of the set of the content bierra is also be a set of the set of

l realize that there is a current trend to "revitalize" old railroad tracks with trails. However, as stated above, it is not appropriate in this instance. At present, there is a perfectly good road often used by sountain bikers within a sile or two of the (Hono Basin part of the) grade (Melanie Findling, Lauren Bayis, Sally Miller, Rom Barger, pers. Holling, Lauren Bayis, Sally Miller, Rom Barger, pers. Holling, Lauren best of the Sterman Sally S

93- "Construct 4WD routes"—This is completely unnecessary. The Bodie 39 Hills are choked with 4WD routes. How can this possibly be part lof a "Natural Resource Enhancement" alternative?

93- "Construct a foot/horse/bike route from Bodie Creek Road to China 40 camp"--1've been to China Camp by 2MD. Very wild. A road goes right to China Camp. Why is it necessary to install a trail?

"Develop cooperative agreements or acquire conservation easements"—this sounds great.

"Conduct water quality inventories near mining activity"---also sounds good--but 1 hope that the mining companies will foot the

1

bill.

Force selected primitive casping areas"—I'm not sure about this. Where will this be? MMY would this still be necessary will be the selected by the selected the selected by sould these enclosures be? I would prove that anyone who wanted to casp in the Bodie Mils would like some solitude. Would pit toilets, etc. then have to be installed to ensure sanitation?

93- | "...Ducks Unlimited"—I'm unclear on the concept. Where is the 42 duck habitat in the Bodie Hills?

"Use prescribed burning"--Yes!

p. 65

"Acquire 5,725 acres"--This is a major concession from the 13,825 acres of land acquisitions described in Alternative 3. "Stablize and restore selected stream channels"--Yes!

93- "Encourage conversion from cattle to sheep"——This was very confusing to me until Terri Russi explained the advantages. Why iso't this included under Alternative 3?

p. 66

I'm in favor of all efforts to limit mining in the Bodie Bowl. I am not an expert on mining issues. Is the BLM doing enough in this document to discourage open-pit mining?

"Coordinate with CDF & 6 to introduce fishable species...". I find this "white man's philosophy" of having to create harvestable resources unfortunate. Please see further objections under the Adobe Creek discussion.

p._120

Bodie Beel Special Recreation Area. I would like to add that the 95 Beel provides important sage grouse habitat. The town of Bodie 45 is a well-known place to see sage grouse (sometimes they saunter down the main street). I've seen then up on the bluffs and or the road just south of town. Seeing sage grouse, especially in or near Bodie, greatly enhances a visitor's experience.

p. 149-151

the approx. 85 miles of streams, about half are in poor 93. "distion". On one hand, this is shocking. On the other hand, I am surprised that only half is considered to be poor. When was the monitoring undertaken?

|Sensitive plant species. What is being done to protect them? 33- The species list present on p. 151 does not include Eriogonum 47 beatleyae (Beatley's Buckwheat), located in "Bodie Hills, 0.6 miles south of Mormon Meadows at Mine east of road to Bridgeport Canyon" (CNDD) or Draba quadrucistata (Bodie Hills draba) located at "Bodie Hills, 3.1 miles SSE of summit of Masonic Mountain next to Bodie-Masonic Road, top of Aurora Canyon 0.2 miles WSW of junction of road to Aurora Canyon and road to Masonic Mountain: 0.2 miles north of intersection of roads at top of Aurora Canyon: 3/4 mile south of east peak of Masonic Mountain 400 feet along fence from road to Logan Spring; Approx. 1 mile south-southeast of east peak of Masonic Mountain, from 600 to 1200 feet east along fence from Logan Spring road; Mormon Meadows: 0.2 miles west of Travertine Hot Springs; south of Beauty Peak near dry lakes: 1 mile southeast of Msonic site; 5 miles east of Bridgeport) (at least nine sites; all neglected in the RMP!) Essentially all of these sites are described as being grazed by cattle or sheep and are present in areas that could be re-opened to mining. All sensitive species areas should be withdrawn from mineral development!

Nor was mention made of <u>Phacelia monensis</u> (Mono County Phacelia); present at <u>seven</u> locations within the Bodie Hills (CNDD), which observes that it is threatened by vehicle traffic, orazing and road grading in most of its sites.

Long Valley Management Area

Long Valley consists largely of wet meadows, all of which 33- are heavily overgrazed. This entire area once was, and still 18 could become an incredible resource for wildlife. Yellow rails once nested here, and even then (1923) the discoverer of these rare birds commented on overgrazing (Birds of California, Dawson, 1923). Yellow rails breed at only one other California location. The nesting area was subsequently drowned by the creation of Crowley Reservoir. Other nesting species extirpated from the Eastern Sierra by the inundation included American bitterns and short-eared owls (Gaines 1988). Willets and phalarones nest in small numbers, and a few ducks-gadwall, wigeon and mallardmanage to pull off broods (Strauss, unpub. report on file with Terri Russi, 1990). Sage grouse are still maintaining small populations, but despite numerous hours afield in the area in 1990 1 never saw a single individual. I did, however, see innumerable cow pies, trampled banks and down fences. Unfortunately, since a lot of the land belongs to DWP. it falls upon BLM to rise above the current deplorable conditions and at least restore the small proportion of Long Valley lands it owns to acceptable conditions.

It is especially important to curb grazing in this area because of the high human disturbance factor, which is difficult

ito control. I always see people in this area, unlike many other 93- of the BLM MA's. I made three visits to Hot Creek gorge during Dec.-Jan. 1990-91, only saw about five ducks each time, and always saw hunters. Furthermore, hot tub users are seriously degrading habitat by (1) destroying habitat for unique invertebrates and birds by virtue not only of tub construction. which tends to convert marshy areas into "tub and stream" habitat, but also by outright poisoning of the system through the use of bleach and other disinfectants, (2) increase of human disturbance which drives away birds and wildlife.

p. 5

"close certain areas for material and/or geothermal development"--Yes. The area is already impacted by existing geothermal development, human disturbance and grazing.

"Land acquisition would improve control of vital habitat areas"--Yes. Especially important to purchase the Little Alkali Lakes. and fence them (and Big Alkali Lakes) from grazing. This area (all sets of Alkali Lakes) is extremely interesting for birds (see Strauss 1990). which love the shallow alkaline waters. Willets, Wilson's phalaropes, avocets, vellow-headed blackbirds and ducks all nest/attempt to nest here. A hot spring that is not converted to a tub is present at the isthmus between the two Big Alkali lakes. Human disturbance from windsurfers (summer) and skaters (winter) is heavy on the Big Lakes. The whole area is a sea of cow pies and I was amazed to find that any birds could successfully nest.

"Negative impacts to wildlife species resulting from increased 93- recreational use would be mitigated"--This sounds like a good 50 idea, but how will this be accomplished? Through abolition of orazino?

p. 71

93- | "recreational use and geothermal development are secondary to 51 wildlife"--What about grazing?

"Close the Hot Creek access road from 11/3/-3/31"--Good!

"Maintain unique and important vegetation communities in present 93- |condition"--The present condition is definitely not acceptable, 52 especially if BLM plans to offset human impacts as described above.

93- | "Maintain 95% of sensitive plant habitat in natural..."--This 53 should be 100%

93- |"Limit snowmobile use ot designated routes in sage grouse 54 wintering areas from 11/15 to 3/1"--1'm unclear why this wasn't

extended to include all of March and April so that leks could be protected (1'm assuming that there are leks on BLM lands).

64 (Unless snow levels are so low by that time that snowmobiles are not using the area). Frankly, snowmobiling should be eliminated because (1) it is too difficult to enforce use of designated routes and (2) because of the multiple heavy impacts that already occur, as described above.

"prohibit mineral material pits and geothermal leasing south of Convict Creek and west of Crowley"--Good.

"Manage for geothermal development"--No way! Geothermal 33- development has already proved disastrous in New Zealand, at the Severs in Sonoma County, etc. The Hot Creek fishery is already threatened by existing geothermal development. The thermal marsh around one-time Casa Diablo geyser is gone. If the thermal resource were to become depleted, acres of unique thermal marsh and themal riparian areas would be eliminated-for which there is almost no data base available on its importance to wildlife besides the fishery. Furthermore, it is an important tourist resource. There were hundreds of people wandering in the Hot Creek area during this past Christmas-New Year's, thus providing a much needed tourist resource during low snow years.

p. 72 .

"wildlife of particular concern are sage grouse. ... Owens tui 43- chub. Great basin springsnail... Sensitive splants include..."--This is the most disorganized document 1've seen in the eastern Sierra. Why wasn't this level of discussion present in the other MA's, all of which contain sensitive plant and animal species, much of which is already summarized in the California Natural Diversity data base?

FRAC is present at 5 sites in the Long Valley area. This level of detail should have been included in this document!

93- | "Meet DPC goals on 35 acres of riparian areas"--This seems too 57 low! These riparian areas are unique (see above).

Prepare an activity plan for hot springs management, mountain 93- bike trail development, dispersed camping and other recreation ---58 These detils should be in this document, since it is part of the meat-and-potatoes of how conditions could be improved in Long Valley. I hope that this document will be available for public review.

p. 73

93- | "Acquire 555 acres of private land"--Too low. Alt. 3 is much 59 better.

"Provide for recreational hot spring use while mitigating impacts to threatened and endangered species"--How? Sounds contradictory.

"Allow commercial and non-commercial fuelwood harvesting of dead (down only) trees"--No. People will "poach" (knock down) snags. This will happen anyways as camping pressures increase in the 25.00

p. 153

Windsurfing. Windsurfing impacts not only nesting waterfowl and 93- shorebirds, but feeding avocets, roosting gulls and terms, etc. 6/ I'm not necessarily opposed to windsurfing, but I do feel that orazing should be eliminated around these nifty lakes to compensate. I saw people skating there this winter. Perhaps sensitive areas (probably the isthmus at the east end) could be cordoned off from windsurfers to minimize disturbance.

"wildlife observation"--The Alkali Lakes are a famous birding wont.

p. 155

"Featured wildlife species include sage grouse"--This discussion 93- should include some of the other things I mentioned above, such 62 as willets (Long Valley may be the southernmost breeding locale for willets). See Strauss 1990. It has a chart at the end chronicling what species have been observed thus far at the Alkali Lakes.

Granite Mountain Management Area

I have spent a lot of my weekends over the last nine years 95 birding Black Lake and River Springs, hiking Granite Mountain, 65 and exploring the Cowtracks and Dry Creek. One of my dreams would be to some day see a Great Basin reserve stretching from the Sierras through Adobe Valley and the Excelsions to State Route 6. Part of this dream is coming to reality with creation of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. I feel that a reserve of this nature makes good biological sense because it would protect the migratory corridors and wintering range of the Mono Basin deer herd. This reserve would also encompass a unique terminal lake. wild horses, wetlands where Wilson's phalaropes breed, and, eventually, sage grouse leks and viable promohorn herds.

The discussion/consideration of sensitive species is weak in 64 this section.

I strongly support the acquisition of Black Lake and the private parcel near Adobe Lake. Both places provide fantastic wildlife habitat. Black Lake supports nesting willets, ruddy

ducks and yellow-headed blackbirds. It has an interesting 93- invertebrate fauna. Snowy plovers nest in Adobe Valley between

45 Black Lake and River Springs (Dave Shuford, pers. comm.). The River Springs parcel should also be purchased. It is on the CNDD (California Natural Diversity Database) list as representing the Owens/Mojave desert perennial pool habitat-the only such representative listed for the eastern Sierra. It also supports nesting ducks and shorebirds. CNDD states that it has Amargosa

numfish. I would also expect that all of the above sites represent transmontane alkali marsh, another unique habitat.

I also can't say enough in favor of your serious consideration of acquiring the Cownay Ranch property. It has received classification as transmontane alkali marsh (Dean Taylor, pers. comm.). Only Fish Slough represents transmontane alkali marsh on the CNDD list. Snipe, ducks, yellow-headed blackbirds and other wet meadows inhabitants nest there. A rare butterfly, the Apache silverspot, has a large breeding colony at Conway Ranch and several other rare butterflies are also found here (see Conway Ranch final EIR). Furthermore, a portion of the Mono Basin deer herd migrates through the property.

Since the eventual goal of the Mono Basin National Forest 93- Scenic Area is to eliminate grazing, I feel that the BLM should 66 support this forward-thinking trend and propose the same for the Granite Mountain MA.

p. 5

"Major improvement of Adobe Creek for trout reintro."--Trout is 93- hardly an improvement! What affects would this have on possible endemic invertebrate species? Why can't a few Eastern Sierran streams be allowed to remain trout-free? There is already trout in this stream south of 120. One spring after a wet year, I saw thousands of young spadefoot toads at lower Adobe Creek near the corral. There were so many that I have to admit we spent a lazy afternoon making toad highways and corrals out of the sand along the creek. Wouldn't trout eat the toad eggs? California gulls were feeding on the toads. I have never since seen so many toads at once.

"livestock exclusion in the Larkin Lake...allotment"--Yes! The shallow playa must make excellent bird habitat during wet years (I've only visited it during dry years). Wild horses have been reported using the lakebed (Janet Carle, pers. comm.). I support elimination of grazing from the Frazier Canyon allotment, as well, but I can't determine where this is from the map.

"yearlong protection of Jeffrey pine at Dry Creek"--Yes. This is a wild and unique stream course. I suspect Lewis' woodpeckers may nest in there.

qq. | "all Bureau lands would be open to mineral development"---Why? What about sensitive species? What about the possible creation of a giant Great Basin wildlife reserve? (see above).

p. 67-70

"Manage...to improve livestock forage"--What does this mean? How can I have faith, for instance, in the DPC concept with a

statement like this? Does this mean seeding with introduced species, which would degrade what little integrity is left of the natural vegetation?

"Improve waterfowl habitat at Adobe and Antelope Lakes"--What does this mean? Fencing to remove wildlife would be an improvement. But blasting to deepen ponds, etc. may have significant impacts to birds that prefer shallow water. invertebrate species, etc.

"employ full (fire) suppression in Adobe Valley only when human life, etc is threatened"--Good:

"Chemically control 3.760 acres of sagebrush on the Adobe Valley -93- allotment"--This would be a very sad mistake. This type of 7/ management should be abandoned. What about sagebrush dependent species?

93- | "Improve water distribution in pastures 4 and 5"--Where is this? Why should any changes be made at taxpayer's expense when grazing on public lands is already heavily subsidized?

"Provide habitat for wild horses in Adobe Valley and east Mono Basin as per the HMP for the Montgomery Pass Herd"--I don't have this document so it is hard to respond to this statement.

"Allow commercial timber baryest of Jeffrey pine at Dry Creek"--This seems absurd. Timber here is second growth and grows extremely slowly due to the dry conditions. The Forest Service is already logging the beck out of the Jeffrey pine forest east of Hwy. 395.

- 93. | "Enhance semi-primitive non-motorized and motorized dispersed recreation"--Absolutely not necessary. This area is already veined with innumerable roads.
- "Stabilize and restore Adobe Creek to meet habitat conditions for 93- a naturally reproducing trout population"-- The opals sound good but the stream shouldn't be managed for trout. I can't imagine it would ever become a world-class trout stream.
- "Protect and enhance raptor nesting and roosting sites" .- This sounds beneficial, but what does "enhance" mean? Usually when humans try to improve something they end up making the situation

WOF SE.

"Yearlong protection within 1 mile of the Mono Basin National 93- |Forest Scenic Area"--What kind of protection? A one mile strip

% is extremely minimal, especially with the enormous viewshed/visibility of the Mono Basin. See suggestion for a reserve above.

"Allow commercial and non-commercial harvesting of dead trees and 93- live wood where it will further wildlife habitat and DPC goals"--77 I find this statement difficult to believe, especially under the so-called wildlife alternative. What will this succeed to? Presumably sagebrush habitat, of which there is already at least 17,000 acres in this MA and for which chemical poisoning was proposed under Alternative 1. I think allowing people to remove live wood is a big mistake. It will confuse people about Forest

Service/BLM regulations, which are already near impossible to enforce due to the large area necessary to patrol. It should also be kept in mind that much of the pinyon in this MA (as well as the Bodie MA) may be second growth as a result of Bodie mondrutters. I feel that the eastern Sierra pinyon community has already suffered enough devastation. Allowing such harvesting in Frazier Canyon for mule deer habitat improvement is shortsighted. Removal of pinyons will ruin the primitive nature of the area. "The quality of recreation opportunities is high for users who seek spacious sage covered basins encircled by stark, ninvon covered hills" (RMP p. 151). Mule deer will receive much oreater benefit by removing substantial AUMs.

"Acquire scenic easements"--Yes!

"Develop an interpretative plan"--1 don't feel this is necessary. 93- The Forest Service is already doing a fine job by providing a new 78 Visitor Center and more sions and interpretative fixtures. See the final Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area plan for more details.

"Fence waterfowl nesting areas from livestock use"--Yes! However, 160 acres is minimal, especially considering that this MA contains over 160,000 acres. Fencing springs is also a great idea, but more should be included.

"Construct goose nesting platforms"--This is, as far as I know, a 53- big waste of money, plus they are unsightly. Have the platforms 79 at Mono Lake or on Little Hot Creek ever been used? I doubt it. but I would like to know if so. Livestock removal is much more important.

"Inventory sace orguse"--Yes! I'm surprised/saddened that this hasn't already been accomplished.

"Develop water sources for mule deer, etc." -- Again, I feel funds

could be better spent by fencing off livestock rather than attempting to improve sub-optimum habitat.

- 93- "Determine raptor nesting site protective zones"---Yes! But this 80 should have been done before the RMP came out, and for all MAs.
 - "Coordinate with private landowners at Conway Ranch to retain current fishery and wildlife habitat on Milson Creek"—Yes! Better yet, acoure the ranch and remove the livestock.
- "Specific restrictions on geothermal and salable mineral pledevelopment and rights-of-way were considered in Alt. 3 to 15 protect Mono Basin scenery...VRM 11 classification will adequately protect the visual resources near Mono Lake"—This is not convincing. What are the precedents for this? A lot of support the process of the second of

P=...151-2

No mention was made of <u>Astragalus pseudiodanthus</u> (Tonopah milk vetch), described on eight locations on BLM lands in the eastern Mono Basin!

Benton_MA

1 haven't spent as much time in this MA as some others, but have hiked across BMI lands to Montopenery City and the Oberos River gorge, explored Yellow Jacket road and Red Rock Canyon, birded Fish Slough and visited a few of the volcanic tableland petroglyphs. My elemenal impression is that this is a very dry large that the state of the volcanic state of the volcanic tableland first place. I've never actually seem a wide diversity of birds at Fish Slough, but it looks like good habitat and everything possible should be done to preserve and improve it. A number of raptors—red-tailed hawks and a golden eagle—were riding the thermals over Debens River gorge when I was there. I hope the area is never impacted by a powerline on adjacent BM lands.

9384 Concomitant disturbance. Reduction of grazing and DHV use should be promoted to offset the deleterious effects to wildlife.

p. 5-6

"land disposals which range from 0 to 11,551 acres"—the latter sould be make a substantial change in what is currently a small 55 community. There is no way that 1 could advocate such a trade without having substantially more information on the impacts.

"yearlong protection of threatened and endangered species
habitate"—This should have been initiated long ago, and should
be undertaken for all MAs. Mineral withdrawals should take place
on these lands.

"continued protection of petroglyph sites by existing minerals withdrawals"—-Yes.

"reintroduction of threatened and endangered species at 5 new 9; sites"—This ided of vague statement is impossible to endormen. 86 What species" What impacts sould this have on existing invertobrates and other species? Many pupish introductions, for instance, occured in waters that may have held unique species, but no invertobre or conducted before the fish where released.

"exclusion of livestock grazing at the Fish Slough Allotment 6004"--Yes.

pp. 74-78

grazing in more places?

93- "Improve waterfowl habitat in the ACEC"--What does this mean? 87 See comments above for Granite Mountain MA.

|"Prohibit livestock grazing in the riparian zones of Marble and 93- Silver Creeks"—-Yes. How will this be accomplished? Perhaps 88 this allotment should be phased out. What about eliminating

"Coordinate vehicle use management in the Truman Meadows area 3% with USES"—Yes. I visited this area during a fook Creek pack 38 station wild horse trip. It is an important place for wildlife, 38 station and the second of the

93- "Monitor Astragalus lentigebosis piscenensis"--Of course! I 90 | would expect that all sensitive plants and animals are being Impositored--for all MAs.

9396 ODD lists Eriogonum empulaceum at various places within Benton out. HAR 'punite queries, E of Benton range, about one saile 80 of benton that Springs; also 1.6 miles northeast o

93. "Thin vegetation on portions of Marble Creek"——Hunh? Why?

substantiation.

"Raise the water level in Silver Dreek"—What ramifications would be this have on up- and down-stream systems? How will the flow be regulated on this stream? Does this mean that a dam will have to be installed?

93- "Identify several pumice sale blocks"--What about public review 93 of such a process?

9"Enhance seai-primitive dispersed non-motorized recreation
90 opportunities in the south Tableland area, and provide physical
90 estimates for activities including hiking... The theorem of the season of the seas

"Beasonal protection of sage grouse wintering areas from 12/1 to 95 grazing? Shouldn't protection be year-round, such as reduction of 95 grazing? Should this be extended at least to 5/1 to protect lek's?

"Yearlong protection of Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub, etc"— Good! But why isn't this being done already? And why weren't sensitive species in sost of the other MAs afforded yearlong protection? What kind of protection is this, anyways? It should include withdrawal of their habitat from mineral development.

what about the population of Owens speckled dace described at "spring on East side of North fork Deems River at Hathieu Ranch, Hammall Valley, 5.5 miles B. of Benton Education Telegraphy which recent monitoring been conducted at this locale? "East any "Eggloy full (fire) suppression techniques"—what effect will this have on fire-adapted plant commentities? See discussion

p. 155-157

Discussion of species of special concern—This is excellent. I
3- with this level of discussion was available in the other MAs.
All habitat for these sensitive species should be withdrawn from
aineral development. Grazing should be ainimized. Monitoring
should be conducted.

Watershed withdrawals

1 feel that blanket watershed withdrawals could create an extremely dangerous situation in the eastern Sierra. It would be much more prudent to allow piecemeal withdrawals, when and where needed, after a thorough analysis was conducted to determine impacts.

Transmission line corridor

First of all, this should be treated in a separate multi-33apency document and not shootherned into the RMP. I cannot make 97 an educated decision about the various alternatives without analyzing the imposts to BLM, USFS and private lands, if any.

1 feel that the need for a new transmission line was not established to ay satisfaction. The fact that LADMP provided the substantiating information seemed very suspicious. Also, although I have no reference, I have frequently heard that California currently has a surplus of power.

Due to the low vegetation, the transmission line corridor

33- Would have a tramendous impact on the viewshed regardless of

39 Which alternative was chosen. All three of the alternatives
routes are in wild areas that are important to wildlife. None
are acceptable.

BLM lands are already having to incorporate a huge 500 kilovolt transmission line through Idaho, Nevada and Utah (the Southwest Intertie Project). When will the need for these ugly, habitat destructive facilities cease? The Eastern Sierra already has its. in my opinion, its fair share.

Therefore, 1 strongly encourage BLM to adopt the "No project" alternative. It is the only sensible choice.

Appendix 6

This list should also include Swainson's Hawk (I've seen 3)them in Bridgeport Valley though not no BLM lands), Millow (60 Flycatcher 1970 State Fish and Game endangered—see Gaines 1988—quite possible on riparian BLM lands), and Bamk, Semallow (60 threatemed—i think the site described in Bridgeport WW is on BLM appendix.)

Species diversity is a critical issue. Many plant and 93- wildlife species are on the edge in the eastern Sierra. The Plan does not do justice to either the remarkable species diversity that manages to survive in the eastern Sierra, or to propose specific plans to restore/perpetuate them. I have listed a number of species above that were completely eliminated from the draft RMP. The only excuse I can think of is that my CNDD printout is several years old and some of those species may have been removed from sensitive status. Even so, they should be monitored to determine if dry conditions, roads, grazing, etc. impacts them to the point that they are again threatened. Also, all sensitive species habitat should be withdrawn from mineral development ("Locatable mineral development would substantially impact 14 populations of 4 sensitive animal species" p. 197).

Huntable species such as sage grouse and antelone are 98- important and are excellent sagebrush/meadows indicator species. Mosever. it is shocking that more attention wasn't focussed on non-game species. Chukar are introduced and should not be managed for in the eastern Sierra. Improving water sources for game species in the Inyo Mountains, as recommended by CDF & G. would almost undoubtedly cause harm to the resident lnvp slender salamandar and is a ill-conceived idea.

Land acquisitions can play a major role in maintaining 93- diversity if the parcels are ungrazed. Conway Ranch is a 103 precious example of transmontane alkali marsh. Black Lake is one of the few eastern Sierra Incales where ruddy durks nest in profusion. River Springs provides willet and snowy ployer nesting habitat. Sinnamon Meadows probably harbors Northern. goshawks. These are a few examples of places that should be rescued before development threatens them.

A major problem with eastern Sierra wildlife management is the checkerboard of land ownership. Bridgeport Res., Crowley Res. and Topaz Lake all share ownership with LADWP. BLM. private parties, etc. and because of this they do not live up to their potential as wildlife habitat. Grazing has destroyed wetlands. Float-tubers and water ski boats disturb pelicans and nesting grebes (Crowley). DRV activity interferes with geese at Topaz. Land acquisition may help and some of these parcels should be included on the land acquisition list. Increased buman interference, such as providing road access to the west side of Bridgeport Reservoir, is completely inappropriate.

Likewise, constructing trails in the eastern Sierra is not 93- | propriate. (a) Recreationalists utilize BLM lands because they 104 want a primitive experience. There are plenty of trails in Yosemite and Forest Service canyons. (b) Trails are not necessary. Much of the land is open and is punctuated by roads.

Generally, I have steered away from endorsing one alternative over another in the comments above. I feel that Alternative 3 is slightly superior over Alt. 4 because it would encourage more land acquisitions. However, Alt. 3 is not farreaching or strong enough to actualize much-needed changes for eastern Sierra wildlife.

Finally, 1 cannot subscribe to the DPC concent as it is 93- presented. There is no data to indicate where the acreages 105 recommended for "meeting DPC goals" comes from; nor is there any substantiating information on where the statistics in Appendix 1 were obtained. How will this be monitored? The DPC concept. completely untested thus far, deserves a separate document that will clarify to the average reader how the figures were generated and how it will be enforced. The summary letter from the public meetings (BLM. 12/21/90) reinforces my worst fears regarding the ineffectiveness of DPC's: "We think we can significantly imporve wildlife habitat by meeting DPC opals, without serious impacts on livestock operations". This is a contradiction in terms.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP)

Sincerely. milie Straws Emilie Strauss 510 62nd St. Oakland, CA 94609

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 93 (Emilie Strauss)

- 93-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 93-2) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 93-3) The data base for biological resources is part of the public record, Within the final document discussion is provided concerning habitat and population condition for candidate species.
- 93-4) Acquired lands could be available for investock grazing. We would have no control over the lands after an exchange or sale, but the site-specific environmental assessments will project what the future use of the land would be. See also the general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-5) The delta at the West Walker River and Topaz Lake will not be included under Alternative 4 for acquisition. Other proposed acquisitions and decisions provide necessary emphasis on waterfowl habitat management.
- 93-6) The proposed modification of plant species composition in pinyon-juniper areas would be directed at those sites where the tree overstory dominates to the near or total exclusion of understory vegetation. Chaining would not be used to meet bird and mammal habitat diversity goals in pinyon-juniper sites. Tree removal would occur to provide a high potential for increased abundance and/or variety of forest dwelling species.
- 93-7) Water sources for native quail populations are proposed in Alternative 4. Locations for those guzzlers would be carefully selected to prohibit an increase in exotic (chukar) game bird populations.
- 93-8) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 93-9) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

- 93-10) The 50 acres of riparian vegetation proposed to meet DPC goals is 100% of the available vegetation type.
- 93-11) Your comment has been considered in the final plan. Any trail location would not impact mountain beaver habitat.
- 93-12) Thank you for your comment; it has been noted and considered. For further information, see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 93-13) In the Coleville MA, 50% of the range is in an unallotted grazing status. The areas are public land: south of the town of Walker, Little Antelope Valley, west of highway 395 and north of Monitor Pass turn-off (previously known as Wild Oat allotment), east of Eastside Lane; and the area previously known as Chichester allotment. Generally, the cover types are big sagebrush-bitterbrush-bunchgrass and big sagebrush-bitterbrush-pinyon/juniper.
- 93-14,15,16) Your comments have been considered in the final plan.
- 93-17) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 93-18) Interpretive media and messages for the Travertine Hot Springs area fall outside the scope of this RMP. They will be addressed in the upcoming activity plan for the area.
- 93-19) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 93-20) The decision has been dropped from Alternative 4 for the Bridgeport management area.
- 93-21) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-22) Please see general response for geothermal issues (p.5-15).
- 93-23) The prescription was modified in Alternative 4 of the draft RMP to consider waterfowl habitat needs. Note that "vehicle" was also eliminated in the preferred alternative.

- 93-24) At this time we do not have enough information on the Walker river delta parcel to determine where it would rank with our other proposed acquisitions. The RMP has been revised to allow for potential acquisition of wetlands or sensitive species habitat not specifically identified in the plan.
- 93-25) The yearlong protection of riparian areas, wildlife, and plant habitats as well as scenic and recreation resources for the Conway Summit ACEC will be implemented so they are compatible and complementary with each other.
- 93-26) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-27) Please see general response for geothermal issues.
- 93-28) Thank you; your comment has been noted and documented.
- 93-29) The four sensitive species mentioned for the Bridgeport management area are the Travertine diving beetle, Sierra Nevada red fox, California wolverine, and Mono buckwheat. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 93-30) The yearlong and seasonal protection criteria for sage grouse habitat is in area-wide decisions on p.50 of the draft plan. Protection involves approval or denial of discretionary actions, which are defined as any proposed action which requires a permit or other decision document.
- 99-31) The prescription gives general recreation program guidance for the management area. It provides the impetus to secure additional funding as available. The absence of a prescription would make it more difficult to secure funds. Please see the Funding section of Chapter 1 in the final RMP for further information.
- 93-32) This decision has been dropped in the final document.
- 93-33) Fencing would be required in most situations where a long term process of stream channel restoration is required. Your comments have been considered in the final plan.

- 93-34) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 93-35) Beauty Peak was considered part of the proposed ACEC designation in Alternative 3 of the draft RMP. It was deleted from Alternative 4 because other prescriptions such as yearlong/seasonal protection, etc. adequately protected the area in lieu of an ACEC designation.
- 93-36) Your concern has been considered in the final plan.
- 93-37,38) Please see response 79-7.
- 93-39) Please see response 92-40.
- 93-40) Please see response 79-7.
- 93-41) Please see response 78-29.
- 93-42) Seasonal waterfowl habitat occurs at Dry Lakes Plateau and Big Alkali Flat.
- 93-43) This decision was only for the Bodie Hills MA and has been removed from the final RMP. The decision was in Alternative 3 of the draft but the conversion was a "requirement".
- 93-44) Mining is a valid use of public lands. See general Bodie response for an explanation of what is happening in the Bodie Bowl.
- 93-45) We appreciate the information. Our data base and the map on p.122 of the draft plan indicate the area as sage grouse habitat.
- 93-46) Two comprehensive stream survey efforts were completed in 1978 and 1988.

93-47) The BLM monitors known populations and conducts field inventories for new populations. Impacts and their causes are documented and mitigation developed. Mitigation is often handled within specific activity plans such as Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP) or Allotment Management Plans (AMP), Exclosures are used for complete protection such as the Fish Slough Exclosure which was built in 1979 for three sensitive species and three Mojave desert disjunct species.

<u>Eriognoum beatleyae</u> is not on the list because it is not a USFWS threatened, endangered or candidate species; a CDF&G listed species; or a BLM California sensitive species. <u>Draba quadricostata</u> has been renamed <u>Quadricostata</u> and is cited as such on p.151 and in Appendix 6, p.267, draft plan.

Inventories and mitigation for sensitive species habitat are done for any mineral exploration or development under a Plan of Operations.

Phaselia moncensis is also mentioned on p.151, draft plan. Field exams do not indicate that this species is threatened by whiche traffic, grazing, or road grading. In 1990, the populations near the Four-way intersection in the Bodie Hills were the most vigorous and extensive yet seen. These populations were along the road and within the graded area. The grading process breaks up the soil surface allowing excellent germination of this annual species.

- 93-48) We appreciate your concern for the Long Valley area. Some decisions under the area-wide and for Long Valley management area are designed to improve habitat condition for species associated with meadow and spring environments. Two other decisions have been added in Alternative 4 for Long Valley management area for habitat protection and expansion for the Owens tui chub, Owens speckled dace and springsnail areas.
- 93-49) Thank you for your comments. With public support, BLM could dramatically improve the condition of problem areas like this.

- 93-50) This statement referred to increased use of hot tubs in Long Valley. Refer to Chapter 4, pp.186-187 of the draft RMP for a discussion of impacts.
- 93-51) Under present management, significant impacts to wildlife by livestock grazing have been and always will be mitigated to the benefit of wildlife.
- 93-52) Your comment refers to Alternative 1, continuation of present management. The Preferred Alternative 4 decisions are on pp.73-74, draft plan.
- 93-53) Your reference is to an Alternative 1 decision for sensitive plant areas. In the final plan Alternative 4 decision, sensitive plant habitat receives yearlong protection.
- 93-54) We have changed the decision to allow no snowmobile use in sage grouse wintering areas from 11/15 to 5/1 per your recommendation.
- 93-55) The proposal to "Manage for geothermal development" is made in Alternative 2 for management purposes. Alternative 2 is not the preferred alternative.
- 93-56) Your reference is to a management theme under Alternative 3 for Long Valley management area. Management themes were necessarily different by management area and alternative.
- 93-57) The 35 acres of riparian vegetation proposed to meet DPC goals is 100% of the available vegetation type.
- 93-58) The specificity you request falls outside the scope of this RMP and will be addressed in an activity plan for the area. The activity plan will be available for public input and review.
- 93-59) Thank your for your comment. Only the highest priority acquisitions are shown in the plan. Our intent is to balance acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-60) Please see response 92-38.

- 93-61) Your comments would be considered in the upcoming activity plan for the area.
- 93-62,63) Your comments have been considered in the final plan.
- 93-64) An expanded discussion of sensitive plant species is provided in the final document.
- 93-65) Thank you for your support.
- 93-66) The majority of the Granite Mountain MA will continue to be grazed but grazing practices will need to be modified for the improvement of wildlife habitat. Goals for 5 DPCs will be met.
- 93-67) Your comment concerning Adobe Creek and aquatic habitat improvement for trout has been considered in the final plan.

The Frazier Canyon grazing allotment is located west of Highway 120 extending from the USFS boundary near Watterson Meadow for approximately 6 miles.

- 93-68) See general response for minerals (p.5-13).
- 93-69) This was under the No Action Alternative 1 (page 67, draft plan). Under "support needs", 3760 acres of sagebrush would have been chemically controlled for improvement of pronghom habitat and the release of native grass species. This also would have improved livestock forage. There were no decisions for meeting DPC goals under this alternative.
- 93-70) Waterfowl habitat improvement would involve exclosure fencing for livestock and potentially providing some deeper water ponds to carry nesting ducks and broods through those years where precipitation is below normal. An environmental analysis would be required before conducting any project work.
- 93-71) See response 93-69. The proposed area for treatment was 4 miles from known sage grouse leks and nesting habitat.

- 93-72) The pastures are in the Adobe Valley allotment. This proposed water development is part of the existing AMP and is necessary in order to improve livestock distribution within these pastures. Projects such as this are financed by monies collected from grazing fees and monies/labor provided by the benefiting livestock operator. The improvement of livestock management through project development almost always results in public rangeland improvement.
- 93-73) Please see the OHV general response.
- 93-74) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 93-75) The word "enhance" has been removed from the decision in Alternative 4.
- 93-76) Please see response 90-2.
- 93-77) In the final plan Alternative 4 decision, only dead and down wood plus selected live pinyon or juniper trees may be taken in desired plant community or designated wildlife habitat improvement areas. Increasing vegetation diversity would improve wildlife species variety and/or abundance.
- 93-78) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and considered for our final RMP.
- 93-79) Waterfowl habitat improvement would be accomplished primarily through a change in livestock management. However, if the situation occurs whereby geese could be encouraged to nest in the Adobe Valley area, goose nesting platforms would be an option.

Sage grouse wintering areas for the Adobe Valley and Sagehen Summit populations are unknown. The support need provides direction for this important data element. Strutting ground census has been ongoing for the past 7 years and will continue. Our habitat use information for these species indicates that a larger area is potentially available for their use if water sources are present.

- 93-80) We appreciate your concern with raptor sites.
- 93-81) Thank you for your support. Acquisition of the Conway Ranch is not included in the final plan because the mitigation projects they are proposing would offset at least some of the impacts of their proposed development. However, Conway Ranch acquisition is possible should the owner become willing to sell or exchange the property with the Bureau in the future.
- 93-82) Please see response 90-2.
- 93-83) The BLM/FS boundary divides Big Sand Flat, 30% BLM and 70% FS. There have been no changes in this boundary.

There are no data to indicate that Big Sand Flat has been degraded by sheep grazing. A 1980 CHPS report on <u>Luninus</u> duranii describes this plant's typical habitat as barren, gravelly purnice sand flats. Although sheep have grazed the area since the 1900's, the general tack of dense diverse vegetation is due to the characteristics of gravelly-sandy soil and harsh climatic conditions (summer soil temperatures of 40 degrees C).

In order to mitigate the impact of sheep grazing on Asmo and Ludu, a watering trough within the flat was moved 1 mile out of the basin. The development of the Mono Mills AMP will address grazing impacts on these species, and it is expected that one of the mitigation measures will be to prohibit grazing within the flat on BLM land.

Inventories and mitigation for sensitive species habitat are done for any mineral exploration or development under a Plan of Operations.

<u>Astralagus pseudiodanthus</u> is not on the list because it is not a USFWS threatened, endangered or candidate species, a CDF&G listed species, or a BLM California sensitive species.

- 93-84) Under Alternative 4 the Fish Slough allotment will be removed from livestock grazing. Much of the actual slough area is owned by LADWP, over which BLM has no jurisdiction. In 1982, the Benton MA received a 10% overall recludion in livestock grazing capacity. Grazing management programs and the ongoing High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Project are taking measures to reduce impacts to wildlife.
- 93-85) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-86) As stated in the draft decision in Alternative 4, p.77, the Owens pupifish and Owens tui chub are designated for introduction to other sites. The Owens speckled dace has been added to the species proposed for introduction in the final document. See p.77 for locations. The impact to other aquatic species habitat development for listed fish species would be covered in an environmental analysis of the proposed project.
- 93-87) The decision to improve waterfowl habitat on Bureau land in the Fish Slough ACEC is not proposed for preferred Alternative 4. Your question concerns Alternative 1.
- 93-88) Those portions of Marble and Silver Creek being degraded by livestock use would be fenced. Approximately 900 ft. of Marble Creek is currently excluded from livestock use by an exclosure.
- 93-89) Your comments have been noted and considered.
- 93-90) Eleven out of sixteen sensitive plants species are being monitored. The populations of the remaining five species are currently being inventoried.

There are populations of <u>Eriogonum ampullaceum</u> within the Benton management area which were omitted from the draft RMP. They have been added to the final.

- 93-91,92) Your comments are in reference to Alternative 1 on p.74, draft plan. There are no decisions/support needs of this type in Alternative 4. Dp.76-78.
- 93-93) The public review of such material sales would be part of the environmental analysis required before the sale is approved.
- 93-94) The intent is to maintain or enhance the semi-primitive physical settings of the area and promote compatible nonmotorized recreation uses such as hiking, mountain biking, nature appreciation, etc. The final RMP contains a prescription to prohibit saleable material sites as well as place restrictions on the development of new vehicle routes in the area. The visual resource management class prescribed for the area would provide some additional protection to maintain the semi-primitive settings of the area. Please see Chapter 4, Benton Management Area Rationale and Apopendix 4 for further information.
- 93-95) No sage grouse strutting grounds are known to occur in the Benton management area. Our current information indicates the 12/1 to 3/1 period for sage grouse winter areas is appropriate.

Protection was afforded to listed species in our prior Management Framework Plan (p.6). Our decision has been to give more specific wording to protection of listed, candidate and other species of management concern in the RMP. Yearlong or seasonal protection for other species has been afforded either in the area-wide decisions on p.50 or in individual management area Alternative 4 decisions. Yearlong/seasonal protection involves not permitting discretionary actions which would adversely affect target resources.

A survey of the Owens speckled dace site was conducted in 1988. The dace was still present in very small numbers.

Please refer to response 45-2. Our fire suppression decision provides greater flexibility in using natural fire events to meet vegetation objectives.

93-96) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

- 93-97) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 93-98) See Appendix 8 and the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 93-99) Pages 206-210 of the draft RMP cite the environmental impacts to wildlife and visual quality that would result from corridor designation within each of the three east-west alternative areas considered.
- 93-100) The Swainson's hawk has been added to Appendix 6. The other species are not included since documentation of their occurrence on Bureau land is not available.
- 93-101,102) Your comments have been considered in the final plan.
- 93-103) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 93-104) Please see response 79-7.
- 93-105) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).

JAN 18 1991

Chea Manager
BLM
787 N. Main Site P
Blokop CA 93514

Jan 17, 1991

Fillowing are my responses to the Booksp Resource Management Plan. 2rd E15:

to the preferred attendation (44) it is progrand to designate allogares the scale often in an extension of the special that the scale of the second that the scale of the second that the seco

1) The RMP doesnot give sufficient direction that will assure that adequate protection is provided to the alabama tills from OHV damage and inappropriate OHV was. During my seven years of residence in Low Pire, I have witnessed an upsetting amount of OHV damage occurring in the alabamaa, from establishen ment of new trails to enlargement of old ones. The alabama Hills are a rich brological island of diverse rocky, desert, and spring/riparian habitato jutting out into the Owena Valley. Beaiden providing habitat to raw and sensitive plant and animal species, they provide unque scenic values based on trese same hobitats with a brikdrop of the Siena. The alabamas also are the site of a sich historical heritage in the form of 1930's-1950's vintage Western movies. This movie history was sportlighted last fall during The Lone Pine Mornie Festival. Sustainability and enjoyment of the abovementioned values

on currently in direct conflict with OHV as of the alle, and would continue to be if OHV was continued to be identified for in the RAD as augitured but a very moment was of the even. The RAD reads to identify that myortent values of the area on well as the proper namagement empotence so that subsequent area expects pleaning Cam begin based on meaningful management direction. If you need further ignet segant against other makes, we would be hoppy to provide it.

2) The RMP proposes to despose of various land parcele for agricultural, community expansion, etc. Parcela should be identified which are likely to pure ento private ownership an opposed to becoming acquired by LADNP and remain as wildlands. This is because the impacts of passing into private ownership are much more likely to be significant. I oppose disposing of lands away from larger Communities because even though they may start out as agricultural, they will probably eventually and up as Suldireasins, such as Starlight Estates in Bishop, That create more problems han they solve for land management agencies , The EIS should discuss the impacts of increasing the population is The Overa lally as a result of freeing up These percels. One obvious impact would be worsening The streety major problem of wood smoke during the Winter in the Velley. another is effects for a adjacent

942 BHM, Matical Fact, and DWD lands from "backyard cont. was" such an OHV's, willfires, dogs, etc.

3) The RMP identifes the Soldier Pass as a perferred route for a goverher transmission Corridor. But upon examination of the "Impacts" of lack sorte, I find that Soldin Pass exhibits the greatest impacts, not the least, when compared to Pizona and Queen Valley routes. The Soldier Prox route creates impacts to an endangered species, the ball eagle, and sther race or senative spaces including the elk, ferruginous hank, and Sclesocactus. The other routes do not have impacts of this magnitude. The Soldier Pore also presents impacts to Painte wist. The RMP fails to identy The criteria that were used to select Soldier Pass over Queen Velly + Pizona. " It also fails to provide cuteria That was used to select Soldar Pen mer "No Action." Somehow, even though fore are less environmentally, routes from the area calley, it is judged by choesing The Dwens vally route that the rebuleres value of " System reliability" would be in higher. The RMP fails to identify now much higher it would be, or why this is determined to be more important Rom the Velves that would be lost if a comider were designated.

* Perhaps Silvin Provo was alexaed oracity other 2 router because it begans The leaguest papelation acts. in the lane Ulling and larves the loss prodows but no kis uportant tise Like Willy, Deploying, Tackgodinan, Love Print Dearly A acel with ?

(A) Continued) The EMP field to identify the or discusses the selected injects. That a new BLM corridor would begin on the Owers Valley will The Owers Valley always always from a Norther of I have parting Theorem it. What would be the effects of a significant increase on Dirilland? The Kand States that there is a partitum with adding more lines for the season of The narrowness of the Worldy. Impacts of more lines have seen not discussed, expecially impacts to the resilient of Olancha-Cartinga Again, the criticise used to relact the conden alternative historical of No Action" is weller in relation to Olancha's problems.

Thank you for the apportunity to comment. Del free to contact me if you need additional information or clarification.

Lincoly, fathy Robert PO Box 835 Lono Pine CA 93545

94-4

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 94 (Kathy Noland)

- 94-1) Please see general response to comments on OHV management. The vehicle use designations, yearlong protection, and visual resource management standards provide the general framework to mitigate impacts that are occurring in the Alabama Hills. In addition, we will work more closely with the local community to enhance the public's appreciation of the area. The upcoming activity plan for the area will identify specific actions to correct the oncoing problems.
- 94-2) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 94-3) The impacts section of the RMP have been rewritten to more clearly document the differences in environmental impacts between the east-west alternative corridor areas considered, including the No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative. See also the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 94-4) The RMP does not create a 'new' north-south corridor through the Owens Valley. It proposes to formally designate as corridors the alignment of the two existing major north-south lines running through the valley. The conditions and mitigation measures which apply to this formal designation are identified on p.4s, draft RMP. See also the general response for the corridor study.



January 14, 1991

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street. Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

Michael Ferguson.

This is my response to the Bishop Resource Area's published draft Resource Management Plan. I do not believe that the BIM has put forth adequate recommendations with regard to the Inyo Mountains, the Benton Range and other Wilderness Study Areas.

Bowever, I would support the BLM's Alternative 3 if some of the following adjustments were made.

In addition to BLM's proposed 30,000 acre withdrawal, also withdraw all public lands adjacent to Bodie

also withdraw all public lands adjacent to Bodie State Park from mineral development.

Limit or eliminate grazing from areas which are being impacted by overgrazing. No assessment is

provided of the declining range condition.

Protect and manage the roadless character of all wilderness Study Areas.

Stop off road vehicle use in all WSAs, ACECs and other areas where motorcycles would degrade the environment. ORVs do not honor designated trails.

I especially support the ACEC designations, the elimination of a proposed utility corridor through a WSA and acquisition of over 41,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat and recreation lands.

Leith Cyllan

Keith Axelson & Associates 3737 Ocean View Avenue Los Angeles California 90066 - 213 390-6378

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 95 (Keith Axelson)

95-1) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5).

95-2) Please see the "grazing" general response (p.5-11).

95-3) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. See general response to comments on OHV management at the beginning of this chapter.

Ashland, OR 97520 Jamay 15, 1991 Dean Mr. Forgisson what we have 96-2 Prages -> no mining around bodie. Withdraw all lands adjacent to todie from Minimal development. 96-3 from overgraved wears all USAS, NECS, and other 96-4 Support wild & Some designation of the KI rivers found eligible and against put links comdon

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 96 (Dave Willis)

- 96-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 96-2) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- 96-3) Please see the general "grazing" response (p.5-11).
- 96-4) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8) and response 69-7.



JAN 18 1997

Michael Ferguson Bishop Pesource Area, BLM 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Drawer D Lone Pine, CA. 93545 Jan. 16, 1991

Dear Mr. Perguson.

The Eastern Slerra Nevada Committee of the Slerra Club wishes to make the following comments regarding the Bishop Resource Area Draft Resource Management Plan and Braft Environmental Impact Statment.

The Simon Desource Area is of prime importance and interest to the moners of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Committee of the Sierra Club. Description of the Committee of the Sierra Club. Description and vilidifie area of supero boundity. Given the over-arching scope of the DEIS and its 10-20 year timeframe. We feel this is the most critical BMM document since the vilideness recommendations and the nearly ten year old range, documents of the party 1980 to

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on this most important plan and DEIS.

Sincerely. 4.16

Michael Prather Chair-Tolyabe Chapter Sierra Club.

LAS VEGAS GROUP P.O. Box 19777 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth. . .

GREAT BASIN GROUP P.O. Box 8096 Reno, Nevada 89507 I. NEED FOR REWRITING THE DEIS

Baying read many BPP's, never has there been one that Is so poorly organized and III-defined. Following BIPR, outdefines the reader must be allowed to understand the proposed project and its understand the proposed actions fully, due to the confused or ounderstand the proposed actions fully, due to the confused organization of the information and the lack of adequate detail. The BZES must be recritical and certification in a form that meets

II. RANGE

97-1

97-2

97-3

97-4

The planned commission of the treatment of the range program in the BEIS in unacceptable. The reader lo unable to comment on the effectiveness of the vilidife and recreational aspects of the RIP vilhout the necessary data on the existing condition and effectiveness of the current range program. The inter-connectedness of these components of the RIP makes the

analysis of one impossible without adequate data on the others. A withdrawn and rewritten DEIS should include the following information:

a. How many AMP's exist for the allotments in the

resource area?

b. What is their current condition, trend, and

utilization?

c. What is the monitoring data for the allotments and what methodology used?

d. What reports on the effectiveness of the existing range program have been issued since the 1981 and 1982 grazing EIS'87 These plans are possibly outdated and ineffective. If, after the vests of the ourrent management program, allothements are still in poor or fair condition, why have adjustments not been made in the numbers of AUMTES.

Regarding the new DPC concept for use on up to 30% of the

a. What is the DPC concept?
b. What is its methodology?

c. What monitoring resources will be needed to make it function properly?

d. Why are only 30 % of the acres targeted? Why are only 14% of the acres initially to receive this treatment?
e. Why substitute the DPC system for the existing range

program?

f. Where are the maps that show the areas to receive
DPC treatment?

BPC treatment?
g. Why are these areas to receive treatment and not the others?

The substitution of an unknown system of range management for an existing system with unknown effectiveness fails to provide the reader with adequate information to analyze the proposed project as NEPA requires. Therefore the DEIS must be rewritten and recirculated.

The rewritten document must include Standard Operating Procedures or something similar to the Standards and Guideline in -- PAGE 2 --

97-4 cant. the Invo National Forest LMP. These should include:

- a. Resolution of wildlife vs. livestock conflicts that will favor wildlife.
- Soil and bank disturbance standards.
 Utilization standards for specific species of plants
- with no level above 50%.

 d. Water quality standards that require safe drinking standards in grazed areas.
- standards in grazed areas.

 e. Monitoring that sets defined schedules for immonitoring and required reductions, rest or if necessary
- elimination of grazing in allotments.

 f. Standards for protection of wetlands (ephemeral and perennial), meadows, streamside riparian, springs, aspens (Bodie Billis) etc.

II. WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Only a minor portion of the resource area has been recommended for vilderness. The DEIS must, however clearly state the protections that non-recommended vilderness study areas shall receive until Congress deals with then in the future. In no way should it be implied that future developments can take place in NSYs before Congress makes a final decision as to their attaux. In addition, maps should dipplay where the Wilderness Study Areas are in the Bishop Resource Area.

III. MINING

77-6. As a owneral statement, the entire Bodie Bodi should be victoraum. All ACEC's should receive mineral vibrawal also. Setthermal development, especially in the Owens Lake area has the use by migrating shorebrider. These potential leases should be use by migrating shorebrider. These potential leases should be disclosed in order for the reader to have adequate information to analyze whether the GPD VIII satisficiently protect the vibility.

IV. TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR

The only study of the need for this power corridor is included from the lost Ampeles Department of Water and Power. Their self-interest is understandable. Thankfully information current need for power in southern California, that router elsewhere, even though longer, would be less expensive and less environmentally destructive. Poorly coordinated study with the content of the co

V. WATERSHED WITHDRAWAIS

The protection of the lands over the years now includes many more values other than watershed. Wildlife, visuals, recreation etc. are all now a part of the Bureau's helpthemed responsibility. The current management should remain In effect with no change.

VI. LAND ACQUISITIONS

-- PAGE 3 --

97-9

Additional wetlands that are heavily used by shorebirds must be acquired at Owens Lake. These lands should include, but not be limited to:

a. The Clasped Hands property (top priority). This land is owned by a bothled water exporter and development activity has begun including diversion of water from the marshes and smudilate-contact into County Planning begartenent. Its 39 acres much later than the marsh species of migrants and residents including the canditate and property of migrants and residents including the canditate for the death of the property of the pro

b. All other wetlands in the Cartago/Olancha area that are used by avian and other specules must be acquired due the "water rush" and geothermal threat.

c. Private lands at Dirty Socks Hotsprings and the private wetlands to the north east of the spring should be acquired.

d. Private wetlands in the Cottonwood Ponds area north of Cottonwood Creek should be acquired.

Of all the Alternatives. Alternative 3 with major revision would possibly be acceptable. These revisions would include:

a. Greater land acquisitions for wildlife enhancement b. Inclusion of a complete analysis of Range.

c. Full disclosure of the DPC concept and its implementation.

d. Wildfires being allowed to be a part of the ecosystem process.

e. And any of the other suggested changes mentioned above.

This concludes our comments. With an extended comment period more thorough analysis could have been possible. We look forward to discussing these and other comments with your staff at any time in the future. Thankyou

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 97 (Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter)

- 97-1) See response 51-1.
- 97-2) Please see the 'grazing' general response (p.5-11). There are 10 AMPs; see response 92-51. Approximately 25% of the grazing acreage is under AMPs. The RMP proposes additional AMPs.
- 97-3) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 97-4) The following statements address your specific comments:
 - a. A large number of the decisions are directed at wildlife habitat improvement through changes or limitations in livestock forage use (see p.50, draft RMP, and other management area Alternative 4 decisions).
 - See p.50, draft RMP, for the area wide decision concerning sensitive stream reaches.
 - c. See p.50, draft RMP, for area wide decisions relating to livestock forage use. The decision relating to "Average allotment wide utilization will not exceed 60% ..." has been chanced in the final document.
 - d. Human potable water quality standard will not be required for streams in livestock use areas.
 - Additional Area Manager's Guidelines, decisions, support needs, and standard operating procedures have been added which direct rangeland monitoring according to time frames and frequency.
 - Some standards/decisions for protection of these habitats are in the draft document (e.g. p.50 & pp.270, 271). Also, refer to DPC criteria for these areas. Standards have been added concerning stream reach habitat condition.

- 97-5) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 97-6) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5). Mineral withdrawals have been considered for some other ACECs. Some have no known mineral potential, and therefore need not be withdrawn. Any potential geothermal leases around Owens Lake and their potential impacts will be addressed when a lease application is submitted. The area is of moderate potential, but there has been little interest shown to date.
- 97-7) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 97-8) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 97-9) The RMP has been revised to allow for potential acquisition of wetlands or sensitive species habitat not specifically identified in the plan.

Michael Ferguson. Area Manager 787 North Main Street Sui te P Bishop, CA 93514



Mr. Perguson:

January 13, 1991

Desert Survivors would like to comment on your Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft). We have had a study group working on this, using our members' expertise in wildlife issues and land use. I have enclosed a brief statement of their concerns which you should interpret as a criticism of the document. I'll address other concerns presently.

THE PLAN

The entire concept of the plan is flawed. You state on p. 19 that there are "sixteen major proposals" pending on the Resource Area. You do not identify these, yet you have spent a large sum of the money allocated to you by Congress to prepare this plan in order to facilitate these projects. This is indeed putting the cart before the horse. If the projects are so important, they should be listed on page one and discussed in detail in the subsequent pages. say pages 2-100! We are being asked to approve this plan blindly, with full knowledge that our acquiesence in it and approval of it will probably promote 16 unknown projects of dubious value and unpredictable effects on the land. I see no point in this. We are flying blind.

Desert Survivors would like to know what these projects are. Please describe them in detail in a letter to me if you can. If you are not allowed to do so for some strange reason having to do with proprietory information or "internal management objectives or such, please so state and I will take it up with your superior. This is certainly a strange way to run a planning process!

GEO THERMAL

The proposal to open some of the area to geothermal leasing. perhaps one of the hidden agendas alluded to on page 19, is fraught with difficulty. I realize the proscriptions placed upon you by Congress in 1872 via the Mining Law, but it is fair to say that most mineral and oil & gas leasing in the U.S. is a massive hustle. Geothermal is especially subject to the hustling trend.

Sure, the area has "potential" for geothermal, but so does

your bathtub or the moldy leaves under your neighbor's porch! The Geysers Field in Northern California, subjected to a billion dollars of development, has now begun to lose pressure. Many of the steam wells are drying and are being shut down to conserve the remaining steam. There is little evidence that the Bishop Area page 2



98-1 cent.

could be developed on a large scale; after all, there are not steam jets 150 feet high as in the Rift Valleys of Iceland or on New Zealand's North Island.

Isn't it misleading to suggest to the public that they can profitably invest their money in a geothermal field here? The integrity of not only the BLM but of the U.S. government itself is at stake. I smell a mini- S&L scam here, perpetrated with public money, complete with the typical bevy of mining and geothrmal "consultants" and promoters. It is unethical for the government to bootleg reports of geothermal "potential", provide for them in the Plan, publish them in the Federal Register, and then to watch the hapless investors trash the land in a futile effort to find the steam, only to ultimately declare bankruptcy in order to escape the inevitable backtaxes.

And what of the land? The Mono Basin and proposed areas in Bodie Hills are too valuable to sacrifice to a will-o-the-wisp of steam. These areas should be closed to leasing.

An additional consideration: why close small parts of the area to geothermal leasing when the water table extends for miles in every direction? A well in one place may destroy a spring in another place miles away. The existing springs are too important.

WATERSHED WITHDRAWALS

As soon as I saw your statement on page 23 that the watershed withdrawals enacted by Congress may not still "be necessary", I smelled a rat. If they were necessary then, why not now? How has the watershed changed? And if someone does not think them necessary, who? Who will benefit by changing them? The Plan does not address this. Could it be that the removal of these withdrawals has something to do with facilitating the aforementioned 16 projects? Some say we need "economic impact statements" as well as environmental ones; perhaps what we really need are "socio-political impact statements".

The withdrawals should remain intact and not be changed, especially if hydro-power production (p. 24) is contemplated. There are too many diversions on area streams as it is.

LAND "DISPOSALS"

There seems to be alot of emphasis throughout the plan on "disposing" of BIM lands for development purposes. It is stated that only exchanges are "preferred", but sales are not ruled out 98-3 anywhere in the plan.

Oertainly "disposals" for residential housing should not be

page 3



done. In our current socio-political arrangement, only 10% of Californians can afford to buy a single-family home. To allow BIM land to be sold for residential housing of this type would exclude 90% of Californians from this land and would in effect be a subsidy for the 10% upper crust wealthy classes who already own 60% of the wealth. One need only look at the garish palaces along Rte. 395 near Sherwin Summit or at the plush Mammoth condos to see who would be served and what they would do with the land. For the most part these are people who have made their money off Reagan's military build-up or off of Real Estate speculation or some other nefarious practice; why take care of them? Good people can't afford to buy land anymore.

Other, more public uses such as libraries (sorely needed in the area) or schools or even landfills would not be so reprehensible. But "disposing" of land for industrial purposes presents other problems. There are economic and social costs as well as environmental pollution costs to consider. Details of any projects you contemplate should occupy a whole section of the plan --- they do not. The plan is flawed.

OHY RECREATION

98-4

98-3

cont

The emphasis on promoting OHV use throughout the plan is misguided. It is interesting to note that the plan encourages OHV travel in the Bodie Hills MA (on p. 65) and in the Granite Mts. MA (on p. 69), and thendeclares on p. 83 that it is necessary to "reduce vandalism and trash" in the highly popular Alabama Hills. If promoting beautiful areas leads to vandalism and trash, why do it? Vehicle-based recreationists have little use for the land and its beauties: they are infatuated with their vehicles. The land is just a venue.

OHV use should be limited to a few graded dirt roads and the rest of the Bodie Hills and Granites should be closed to vehicular travel. OHV users bring along with them their beer cans and trash and guns; it is part of the lifestyle.

Furthermore, there is again the issue of managing federal lands for the benefit of the priveleged few: 4WD rigs now run anywhere from \$15,000-\$25,000 and up! Only a few Americans, relatively speaking, can afford such expensive toys, (If it seems like there are alot of them, it's because they tend to congregate in the same general vicinity.) And there is a definite National Interest now in getting these people to help with the War Effort by using less gas --- they should be encouraged to get out and walk!

page 4



NON-GAME SPECIES

98-5

98-6

Take note of the criticisms under "SPECIES DIVERSITY" in the accompanying report. I should also state that Desert Survivors is also very concerned about the status of the Inyo Salamander which is a Category 1 candidate for listing. Every protection should be given to this fragile species, and to other overlooked vertebrate and non-vertebrate species. Developing water sources for game is a special danger. When in doubt leave the water source alone. There is too much emphasis in the plan on game species. In any conflict. Desert Survivors sympathies go toward the non-game species and we expect management for these species as well as for the moneymakers.

FURLWOOD

Finally, Desert Survivors commends restrictions on fuelwood cutting where you have imposed them and where you intend to extend them. This is a consumptive use that has gotten out of hand in recent years.

ON GRANTTE MT. MA:

On p. 67, "chemical control" (killing?) of 3,760 acres of sagebrush is proposed in Adobe Valley. This should be not be done. If a sagebrush stand is too dense, let natural fire clear it out. Fire suppression is the problem.

On p. 68, it is propsed to allow commercial logging! There are acres and acres of National Forest land immediately adjacent where there has been a logging industry for generations. Can't we have anyplace where trees are allowed to stand? The groves in question are a welcome change amidst all that sagebrush. They should be left alone.

On p. 69, brave! to protecting Indian Spring and Dutch Pete's from livestock. We need more of this.

ADDITIONAL ON INYO MA:

On p. 85, wes to prairie falcon nesting habitat protection. On p. 84, yes to acquiring 7 acres of historic structures at Swansea.

On p. 85, yes to maintenance of habitat for G.B. Sprindsmail. Do not allow any fuelwood gathering in this MA -- the wood is too precious for invertebrate use. A total ban is easier to impose because it is easier for the untutored visitor to understand.

page 5



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Bishop Area Plan. Please read the attached comments, pp. 6-13.

I look forward to receiving the additional information requested on page one.

> Desert Survivors P.O. Box 20991 Oakland, CA 94620-0991

A. POWERLINE GORRIDOR:

98-8

The Desert Survivors study group can find no good reason to plow yet another powerline corridor through Owens Valley. The plan calls for a corridor two miles long and eight miles wide on BIM land up Soldier Canyon, 90% of the corridor would be farther east on Forest Service land, for which there is no provision for public input. This seems like a sleazy, backdoor process not commensurate with the high standards of an open, democratic society; its more like communism.

Soldier Canvon is a primitive area which two Desert Survivors expeditions have examined in some detail (see article by Bob Ellis, this issue). It is exactly the type of Great Basin land we should be trying to protect.

Purthermore, the projected trajectory of the corridor leads across the Piper Mt. and Eureka Valley Wilderness Study Areas guaranteeing more damage over there . Figally, why route power all the way across Nevada from Ely, the supposed source, instead of more directly south through Las Vegas, as is currently done? The purported reason, to svoid sabotage or earthquake (or both), is spurious: Saddam Hussein has not yet penetrated the West Coast, and anyway. it is not possible to enter the L.A. Basin from the east or north without crossing an active eartquake fault whatever the angle of approach.

The best approach here is "No east-west power corridor": the alternatives mentioned in the plan are also defective.

B. WILDERNESS

The document allows for a 27,420 acre Wilderness in the South Invos. less than 10% of the total Wilderness Study Area acreage in

cent

98-11

98-9 cont. the Resource Area. This is woefully inadequate and amounts to a "rook and ice" commitment to wilderness values. They have chosen only the roughest of the rough country, ignoring the other 16 MSAs. Desert Survivors recommends more Wilderness, in the Bodie Hills the Granite Mts. area east of Kono Lake, the Volcanto Tableland and a larger acreage in the South Inyos. Our reasons are obvious to anyone who has hixed in the several expeditions we have led to this country, and to anyone else who has looked at this country with eyes OFEN.

The BLK has been handed an exceplent opportunity to protect some Great Basin ecosystems, some High Desert, to complement what the Forest Service and Bational Fark Service have done with the Forest and Alpine Yundra. The so-called "Great Basin Rational Park" is essentially an outpost of the Kocky Kountains; essential features of the Great Basin are ignored. The Eastern Sierra/Kono Lake area is evolving into a major tourist attraction and all of its natural features should be preserved "for future generations", as well as for our own.

C. GRAZING

98-10

The BLM's desire to use its already formulated grazing guidelines in this document is a mistake. The data these guidelines are based on is ten years old, inadequate for use in evaluating current grazing conditions, especially after more than three subsequent dry years. Virtually every wet spot in the Resource Area provides examples of collapsed streambanks, scalded bedding grounds, wetlands pooked with hoof marks and cowpies. BLY should be even more embarrassed to ignore grazing issues considering the fact that overgrazing on public lands has become a national issue, featured in both environ mental and popular periodicals (though not yet in "TV Quide" or "People"). Despite heavy political pressure from powerful landowners in the area, new efforts should be made to preserve and protect valuable lands from grazing pressure. The whole issue should be reopened and new, stricter grazing guidelines should be formulated.

An example of what could be done: Adobe Valley and all of the Granite Mt. Management Area could be set aside as Livestock-free, thus improving habitat for antelope, snowy plover and willets. This would also protect the important mule deer corridor between the Sterra and the Pizonas.

D. SPECIES DIVERSITY

Species diversity should have been a critical issue. Many plant and wildlife species are on the edge in the Eastern Sierra/Great Basin. It was good to see many of these mentioned in the plan, but more could be done. This needs a greater emphasis, and furthermore, it is ludicrous to profess interest in sensitive species and yet refuse to discuss restricting grazing pressure.

Buntable species such as sage grouse and antelope ARE important because they are excellent sagebrush/meadow indicator species. However, more attention should have been focussed on non-game species. Only \$\frac{1}{2}\$ of Californians hunt. Onukar, for example, are introduced and should not be managed for -- why bother! Hunting has become the rural equivalent of football, the non-thinking man's answer to feminism. By the time they finish buying the 4MD rig, the gun(s), the amon, the reloader, the winch, the Rancho suspension, the K-C Highlights, the beer, the steaks, the insulated boots, the handwarmers, the Mustler magazines, the trips to Hawthorne and the taxidermist, they've figured out that it's cheaper to buy hamburger,

98-13

98-11

98-12

It was essavist Edward Abbey who referred to Mule Deer as "rats with antlers". Deer are nice, both in the wild and at the petting zoo, but there is simply alot more out there, and if we are to have a world populated by more than humans, deer, coyotes, rayens, blackbirds, stray cats and dogs, houseflies, mosquitoes, ants, rats and cockroaches, we had better pay more attention to other species and write management plans that provide for their continued prosperity.

We applaud the listing and description of the 18 "Desired Plant Communities" listed in Appendix One, but there were many left out, such as Trans-Montane Alkali Marsh, Owens/Mojave Perennial Desert Pool and Mono Pusice Flat. The California Natural Diversity Database has many more details on such ecosystems, and more of the document should reflect this and be based more fully on it, not just an appendix.

Sensitive/borderline species such as Owens Speckied Dace, Yellow Warbler and Willow Plycatcher are not dealt with. Apparently, only legally listed Tareatened/Endangered Species (Appendix 6) are worth managing for. Unfortunately, once a species declines to that stage, oftentimes not much can be done. Health of entire ecosystems should be paramount.

E. WATERSHED LANDS/LAND "DISPOSAL"

In a really unexpected proposal, the new document grayests getting rid of watershed withdrawals that have protected lands since the 1930s. Whenever a major overturn of a conservation-oriented improvement is proposed, any thinking person must see red! Can this be one of the major reasons this document was contemplated and then foisted upon us? Some of the proposed land "disposals"

happen to have streams tumbling through them. Maybe someone has an eve on these streams for hydronower or other development. The plan admits "there has been interest in geothermal", but gives no details. Why all the secrecy? Why propose a drastic change like this for no openly stated reason? If the planning process can be opened up like this on the behest of some very important men, then the plans of those very important men should be placed into the plan for public scrutiny.

There should be no change in the existing watershed withdrawals. and we would gain some wildlife habitat through the process of land acquisition, we would lose other habitat through land "disposal". If the parcels the BLM wants to save are worth saving, they should be saved without fostering development elsewhere.

F. MINERAL LOCATION WITHDRAWALS

All current mining claims which are being kept current can continue to be worked and potentially developed under BLM guidelines. However, the BLM has the right to WITHDRAW certain areas from eligibility for NEW mining claims. Areas for which we strongly support mining claim withdrawal include:

The ENTIRE SOUTH INYO MANAGEMENT AREA: This is the area from the Owens Valley floor to the Inyo Kts. crest from Mt. Inyo south to Cerro Gordo.

The ENTIRE BODIE MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREA: This includes the Bodie State Park and surrounding high plateau/mountain area now embroiled in controversy due to impacts of the Galactic Mine on the Park.

Speculative mining activity has wreaked havoc in many places in the Resource Area. Solving this problem will have to await

98-14

major changes in mining law, but this is another issue that has made its way into the national periodicals and newspapers. Bills have been antroduced in Congress to make these changes. BIM should be made aware of the public's desire to see mining controlled, especially in places of national environmental significance. G. TRAIL-BUILDING

Though Desert Survivors acknowledges the value of trail building in some circumstances, we must note that recreationists use BLM lands because they want a primitive experience. There are plenty of trails in Yosemite and adjoining Forest Service lands. Most hikers who accompany us to these lands, or visit them on their own, prefer the old prespector or Indian trails or what's left of them. or no trail at all. Trails are unnecessary; much of the land is open and easy to navigate around and roads are numerous. Too often. BLM feels that it must "provide" for the recreationist by "building something", either a road or a trail, since BLM so often bends over backwards to accomodate every other multiple use (mining, grazing, water development, powerlines, wood-cutting, etc.) in their every whim. In actuality, most hikers wish the country were simply left alone: that is the highest value BLM can provide.

is an example, the concept of constructing a trail on Slinkard Creek at the expense of riparian vegetation is absurd. The Eastern Sierra has already lost 270 miles of streams from diversions. Every scrap of riparian/wetland needs protection from grazing, woodgathering, etc. A trail would simply damage what is left. H. FIRE-SUPPRESSION

Pull supression of fires is out-dated. Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. A "let-burn" policy should be initiated. Fire crews

should be reduced, thus freeing up funds for more important functions 98-15 like preseving wildlife habitat, reclaiming roads and fighting powerline corridors in court. California's 1991 budget proposes a 5% cut in state funds for fire protection. This is an improvement.

The urge to fight every fire, like the urge to hunt, has become a knee-jerk reaction unrelated to the actual needs of the situation. Wildlife managers (and hunters, for that matter) can look at a dense stand of brush and mumble, "what this place needs is a good fire", but as soon as they see smoke, call out the engines! Part of the problem may be the military orientation of many of our land managers, and part of it is instinctive and childlike fear on the part of the public, but the very shrubs and trees themselves. which their highly flammable resins, have evolved to burn, unlike the deciduous-rees of the East where much of our land-management policy evolved. Years of fire-supression have taken their toll, and now whole counties are ready to blow up. Enough!

I. ENDANGERMENT OF OWENS VALLEY DUNE HABITAT

98-16

cont.

In the South Inyo and Owens Lake Management Areas, one proposal calls for disposing of BLM land to agricultural interests. This will impact the sand dune environmentatathe northern end of Owens Lake. A species of dune weevil is threatened by this. There are already millions, of agricultural lands in California, some left fallow due to low crop prices. This "disposl" should not be effected. J. ESTABLISHMENT OF BRISTLECONE PINE PROTECTIVE AREA

One alternative calls for a special habitat management area along the crest of the Invo Mts. to encourage survival of the Bristlecone/Limber Pine community. We applaud this. The only question is, why wasn't this done before, when Desert Survivors

-13-

Desert Survivors P.O. Box 20991 Dakland CA 94620-09

was fighting the Keynot Mine?

K. ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCESS RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR INYO MT, TRAILS

- be supported. We are pleased this has been proposed in the plan.
- L. ESTABLISHMENT OF BIGHORN SHEEP HERD NEAR INYO MOUNTAIN

Yes to this! What better place for it? No doubt they will have a better chance here than many other places that have been tried.

M. WITHDRAWAL OF FUTURE KINING LOCATIONS ALONG PAT KEYES TRAIL

Yes to this, but why not withdrawal in the whole South Inyo area, instead of an eighth-mile wide corridor(!)? If there is mining beyond the eighth mile, won't people notice?

N. ROUGH GREEK

We support Wild River Status for Rough Creek in the Bodie Hills

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 98 (Desert Survivors)

- 98-1) Nowhere in the RMP is the suggestion made that the public should invest money in geothermal fields. See general response for geothermal (p.5-15).
- 98-2) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 98-3) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 98-4) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8). The vandalism and trash problem in the Alabama Hills originates mainly from local student use of the area. Other parts of the resource area where recreation use occurs experience few trash or vandalism problems.
- 98-5) Your comment has been considered in the final plan. Water source developments by the Bureau would not impact Inyo Mountains slender salamander habitat.
- 98-6) This was under the No Action Alternative 1, and was not proposed for the final plan. In 1984 a prescribed burn was conducted in this area for pronghorn habitat improvement. The results were poor and indicated that extremely high winds are necessary, and soil and climate conditions are marginal, for such projects to be successful. This area has a modified suppression rating should a natural fire occur, with the intent of using fire as a management tool.

Under the Preferred Alternative 4, commercial harvesting of timber is prohibited.

98-7) In the South Inyo MA fuelwood harvesting is being used strictly as a wildlife management tool.

99-8) The transmission line corridor portion of the draft RMP was a joint Forest Service/BLM study, with identical opportunities for public participation. Please see the "Overview of the Process" at the beginning of this chapter.

The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study.

- 98-9) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 98-10) Please see the "grazing" general response.
- 98-11) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 98-12) See general response for watershed withdrawals.
- 98-13) The Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area will be withdrawn from mineral entry upon a wilderness designation by Congress.

The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).

- 98-14) Please see response 79-7.
- 98-15) Please refer to response 45-2.
- 98-16) All disposals with known dune weevil habitat have been dropped from the preferred alternative. See also general response for acquisitions and disposals.

JAN 18 1991 Kene Ranch Box 448 Independence CA

Jan 17, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA. 93554

Dear Mr. Ferguson
Please consider the Interior questions, comments and
concerns in completing the Final British Resource Management
Please and EIS.

We would purply alt. I or alt. 2 with continuation of Present Munagument.

It seems that throughout the EIS that vegetative goods for widther, watershied, a reparame will receive attemp terretire that the limited house weeds. The goods DDCs are too restrictive. How is it preside to beautiful the limit of last garding account when in some years you don't start with that much? Throughout the property of what much? Throughout the plans, broaderly gracing is bland as the paramy is belonded as the paramy reason you hattend a greater by they

blund as the primary became for habiture disgletions of the which and separation cases. There is shown any makens of the unifiest to limited because of their plane. We oppose the making of certain teache chapter for will not seems were solution. Insufacion of certain meadarning that there is a considerable of the company of the comment of the commen

there are actually 10 to be closed. We you trying to enect something through?

99-1

99-2

we oppose the Loll	soring for the Durins	Vally MA:
To acquire 634 acres w	in add barna Hills to	protect recreation
must recentle resolution,		The same Proposed Commencer
To acquire 1,106 com	at Hogback Creek to	protet reparien
vegetation.		
To arquire 240 acres a	t Lubkin Creek	
To acquire 120 acres at	brahm Ranch	
To acquire 240 acres a	t Crater mor.	
To acquire 1,820 aus	in Round Valley to	protect mule due
To protect galving area	as of twee elk. M	lost of there
alk calve on City	of LA lander.	
To protest colony are alk calve on City To ductor AMP for	alabama Hella allo	tment,

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 99 (Scott Kemp)

- 99-1) The DPC goal concerning residual herbaceous plant height has been changed to 4*-6*. All streams referred to under this DPC produce herbaceous vegetation along the stream margin which grows to a height of 12*, minimum, if in a natural unutilized condition.
- 99-2) The criteria for determination of river segments as eligible for wild and scienic river study are that it be free-flowing and that it contain outstandingly remarkable values. The eligible river segments identified in the draft RMP met these criteria. Any potential or existing resource conflicts that would result from future wild and scenic river designation will be evaluated in the upcoming studies.
- 19-3) In the final RMP, 2 allotments will be removed from grazing which have allocated preference (Round Valley, Sherwin), and 4 allotments which were created in 1982 but have never been allocated to operators (Keough, Black Rock, Frazier, Fish Slough). Dry Carnyon and Slinkard will be removed only if other range can be found to accommodate the grazing taking place on these allotments. Copper Mountain will be removed from grazing when the existing operator relinquishes or transfers the preference. Grazing at Larkin Lake will only be authorized, at the Bureau's discretion, to maintain waterfowl habitat.



FRIENDS OF THE INYO

Box 406, Lone Pine, California 93545

Friends of the layo is a coalition formed to help protect the layo National Forest's unique qualities: its escent beauty, clean sir, abundant under, varied utildlife and plant propulations, and many opportunities for low-impact recreation.

January 16, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management - Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 95514

Dear Mike,

On behalf of Friends of the Inyo, I am submitting comments on your draft Resource Management Flan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bishop Resource Arce, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Friends of the Inyo is a coalition, formed in 1986, of organizations concerned with the preservation of the outstanding natural resources of the eastern Sierra. Member organizations of Friends of the Inyo include California Wilsterness Coalition in a section of the California Wilsterness Coalition in a section Sierra New Coalition of the California Wilsterness Coalition in a section Sierra New Auditor Coammittee, Sierra Club - Tolyabe Chapter, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Desert Surrylors, and The Wildedness Society.

Friends of the Inyo appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP and EIS for the Bishop Resource Area. The final document will direct the management of the Resource Area for the next ten to twenty years and is of critical importance to our area. We commend you for your excellent attempts to involve the public throughout the process and for the willingness of you and your staff to provide assistance as we prepared our comments. Thank "ou also for printing the document on reveyled paper."

. The draft RMP and EIS addresses such critical issues as mining, widite and fisheries, recreation, watershed withdrawls and land acquisitions and disposals. We find that certain aspects of grazing are addressed in the plan, while other aspects of grazing are ignored. The RMP recommends a portion of the Southern Inyo Wilderness Study Area (WAS) for Wilderness designation; the other lands under wilderness study are not acknowledged in the RMP and EIS. In our comments we will first comment on the major issues of concern to us, and then provide specific, page-by-page comments on the entire document. We also will comment on the compliance of the RMP and EIS with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

100-1

ociety, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Tolyabe Chapter of the Sterra (Lb. We support adoption of the 70 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) proposed by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Wilderness Study Areas

100-2

The RIMP correctly extnowledges that the Interim Management Policy (IMP) Guidelines for the Section 605 lands under Wilderness Review will be followed. However, you do not specifically exknowledge the existence of any of the eighteen WSA's that exist in the Resource Area (with the exception of a portion of the Southern Inpo WSA, which you recommend for Wilderness designation). These eighteen WSA's comprise over 382 (286,518 acres) of the Resource Area and are a significant resource. While the RLM did not recommend any of these other WSA's for Wilderness in the 1987 EIS, they still can and may be considered for Wilderness designation. Congress has the final determination as to what lands will be designated as Wilderness.

Due to the controversy that exists over the future of these WSA's their overall importance to the entire Resource Area, and most importantly, the fact that these lands are still under Wilderness review, we contend that adequate disclosure of the facts regarding the WSA's is required. The WSA's must be identified by name in the RMP and there should be a map showing the location, name, and number of each WSA (as was done for the Inyo Forest Plan). The IMP Guidelines, BLM Manual H-8550-1, should be summarized (perhaps in an appendix). The RMP should point out that "non-impairment criteria" must be met for these lands under Wilderness Review, and that the lands must be treated as de facto Wilderness until the final determination is made by Congress. In this way your document will not be unfairly prejudiced against potential Wilderness designation. Also, the public that desiresresource-intensive multiple uses of these lands will be adequately informed as to the management requirements for lands under Wilderness review.

Regarding the statement that "Wilderness Study Areas not

100-2 cent.

part of these reports will be addressed in a separate review process outside this plan" (p.24), we infer that this cryptic statement refers to the Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). In spring of 1990, myself and Norbert Riedy of The Wilderness Society informed the BLM and the Forest Service that adequate analysis of the Sec. 202 WSA's had never been completed by the Forest Service under the 1981 Supplemental Agreement Between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management regarding lead agency responsibility for Wilderness study. A contact was made with Jeff Jarvis of the State Office, who could find no documentation of study of these areas by the BLM. It was suggested that the BLM correct this oversight be addressing the Sec. 202 WSA's in your RMP (RMP scoping letter from Sally Miller to Mike Ferguson, May 1, 1990). As this has not been done, we question when in fact the analysis will be completed. In what "separate review process" will the analysis occur? When will the analysis occur? Please clarify your intentions with regards to the Sec. 202 WSA's in your final document

Finally, it should be noted that Soldier Canyon, the preferred alternative for the transmission line corridor, includes a 2,055 acre portion of the Paiute Section 202 WSA (WSA CA-010-060B). This alternative cannot be legally considered until the necessary analysis of this WSA has been completed.

Wildlife, Fisheries and Riparian Resources

100-3

We commend the Resource Area for your efforts to protect and enhance wildlife, fisheries and riparian resources in Alternative 3 (and as reiterated by the Area Manager's Guidelines and SOP's), in spite of multiple uses that threaten these resources. Descriptions of and impacts to some wildlife species, fisheries and riparian resources have been generally well documented in the RIMP and EIS, Unfortunately, the emphasis throughout the RIMP/EIS is heavily weighted towards the protection of harvest species.

100-4

Federal Endangered species are described in the document (Owens tut ichub, Owens pupifa), baid eagle, peregrine falcom) in brief (p. 127-128), but details are not provided in the document of proposed actions that may adversely affect specific Endangered species. The discussion of impacts to Endangered species focuses very generally on region-wide actions (including ski development), rather than disclosing potentially significant adverse impacts of proposed actions on each Endangered species on Bureau land, as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Sec. 7) and the NEPA 40 CFR 1502 (2019)). While this is a programatic document, actions

100-4 cont. such as "major" and "super" mines are forseen, thus it is not infeasible to be able to predict the impacts of such actions on Endangered species. The RMP/EIS shou'd also provide documentation to support the conclusion (p.197) that

"The Owens pupilsh, Owens tul chub (and Lahontan cutthroat trout) would either be downlisted or removed from formal listing under the Federal Endangered Species

The northern spotted ovl (Federal Threatened) should be mentioned as a species with potential occurrence on the Resource Area (Colevulle Management Area old growth), and surveys for the spotted owl should be conducted (rare sightings have occurred to the south in the old growth forest between Mammoth Lakes and June Lake in the past five to ten years) in the summer of 1991.

100-5

Most disturbing is the treatment in the RMP and EIS afforded to candidate species. Under the ESA and in the BLM Manual, federal candidate species are to be managed as though they are listed species, i.e., the intent of the law is to afford candidate species the protections of the ESA. Federal candidate species are listed in Appendix 6, but are not specifically referenced in the body of the document. The following description of rederal candidate of the Computer of the EIS (1912).

"Twelve animals classified as candidates for threatened or endangered species status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are found in the resource area. These species & insects, 2 amphilbans, 2 birds, and 6 mammals) occupy several locations in the planning area. Additional locations provide habitat conditions favorable to both species of insects and at least 2 of the mammalian species. Complete inventories are lacking for 4 of the

What are these species (they are listed in Appendix 6, but the information needs to be detailed in the body of the document)? In what portions of the Resource Area are these species found? What types of habitat do each of these species occupy? Where is the critical habitat located? For which 4 species are complete inventories lacking? Referring to descriptions of the affected environment for the individual Management Areas (MA's), one is able to dissert that the Travertine diving beetle occupies not springs habitat in the Long Valley MA (p.155) and that several of the federal condidate species are found in the Owens Valley (p.259) and Southern Inyo (p.260) MA's. In what MA's and types of habitat are each of the federal condidates found?

,

Are there any state-listed (Threatened, Endangered, candidate or Sensitive) animal species in the Resource Area? If so, what are they, what types of halitat do they occupy and where are they found? What other sensitive species are found in the Resource Area (the RMP/Eis Notes 60° *sensitive *species, p195)? Please list all state-listed species, esnsitive species and *species of special concern* in the Appendix or the body of the RMP/Eis.

100-7

100-8

Cryptic statements are made throughout the document relative to threatened, endangered candidate and sensitive species, particularly in the summary of impacts by Menagement Area (Table 2-2, p.92-113). On page 107, the RMP/EIS states that, for the Preferred Alternative:

"Several new populations of endangered species would occur on Bureau land. Habitat and populations of 5 sensitive species would be degraded or lost."

On page ii3 the RMP/EIS states, for the Preferred Alternative, that:
"Habitat for 2 endangered species would be expanded into

the management area."

Other similar statements are made in this section relative to these species of special concern. However, no further disclosure or analysis of environmental impacts is made in the document that

affords the reader a hint as to how these conclusions have been

The RMP and EIS must detail which specific reasonably forseeable actions may threaten which specific federal or state-listed or candidate species in which specific locations (critical habitats) in the Resource Area. What will be the environmental consequences of proposed actions to these species? Potentially significant impacts must be disclosed in the EIS. Measures must be proposed and implemented to protect critical habitat for these species.

In summary, your documentation and environmental analysis of federal and state sensitive, threatened, endangered and particularly candidate species is wholly inadequate under the NEPA and the ESA. A thorough documentation of candidate and listed species must be included, and detailed environmental analysis, as per the ESA and the NEPA, must be secomplished in the RMP and ES (ESA Sec.?, NEPA 40 CFR 1508 270b/9). In conjuction with the ESA and the BLM Manual (6622 1108/20b) ± 1622 116(37b), overry effort must be made to manage for listed and candidate species so that they may ultimately be delisted.

There are other animal species that should be incorporated

100-9

onto the Resource Area's "sensitive" or "Management Indicator Species" (MIS) list. These species are indicators on Inpo National Forest land and include: yellow 'warbler (riparian MIS), pine marten (Region, 5 sensitive), golden oegle (special interest), prositive allow (special interest), prositive (Region 5 sensitive), hairy woodpecker (snge-dependent MIS), Williamson's separabeter (snge-dependent MIS), Williamson's separabeter (snge-dependent MIS) administrative boundaries, thus the same indicator species should ideally be included in both plans.

100-10

We are pleased at the documentation of ripartan habitat (including aspen) conditions and impacts in the RMPPIES, and at measures proposed to protect, enhance and restore riparian resources. Given the general degraded condition (p. 182-155) and extreme importance of riparian areas to wildlife and fisheries, complete protection of all riparian areas should be prioritized, not solely those areas proposed for Desired Plant Community (DPC) treatment in the Preferred Alternative.

Vegetation

100-11

Most of our comments on vegetation relate to DPC's. However, we are concerned about the treatment for lack thereof) given to sensitive plant species in the RNP and EIS. Fifteen federal candidate plant species (some state-listed) are noted in Appendix 6 (note - the RNP on page 156 says that there are sixteen federal candidates), and locations for some species are generally disclosed in the descriptions of the individual NA's on pages 144-162. It is noted on page 156 of the RNP that

"Some sensitive plant habitats are currently being degraded by the effects of summer-long continuous livestock use. In some cases, plant vigor has been reduced and the ability of paints to flower and disperse seed is adversely affected. Other candidate plant areas are being degraded or lost to rood maintenance and

The specifics of impacts to these endangered plant populations must be documented in the RNP. Which populations of which species are being threatened by which proposed actions? What type of data has been collected? What measures are proposed to protect these populations? Why is there no environmental analysis of potentially significant impacts to these species? Please include this information document, in compliance with the intent of the Endangered Species Act and state laws protecting endangered plants.

Desired Plant Communities

100-12

The Bishop Resource Area has introduced the concept of Desired Plant Communities (DPCs) to establish resource condition objectives on the Resource Area. While we commend the Resource Area for giving deserved attention to maintenance of healthy vegetative communities, we have many concerns regarding the use of this new and unproven management strategy.

Your DPC definitions in Appendix I give no references. Where did the definitions come from? From what sources or guidelines were the definitions developed? On what ecological data are the definitions developed? On what ecological data are the definitions besend? An explanation of the process used to formulate DPC definitions, with references, should be provided in the Appendix. In the draft Mono Basin National Forest Senic Area Comprehensive Management Plan and EIS (1988), the Forest Service was saked to justify how they arrived at choosing a preferred lake level - the DPC concept is novel and seemingly subjective enough to warrant similar scrutiny by the concerned public.

A major concern is that DFC <u>treatment</u> is proposed for only 144,820 acres (487) of the Resource Area (p.56) (you have defined DFC's for key vegetation types convering 237,000 acres (503) of the Resource Area (p.29), what is the distinction between DFC definition and DFC treatment?). We infer from your document that the convergence of the definition of

"The other 642,000 acres of vegetation in the resource area would remain in their present condition for the long tarm."

(emphasis added) (For the "Natural Resource Enhancement" alternative, 635,000 acres would remain under status quo management).

We contend that the entire Resource Area should be managed for optimum vegetative conditions, or at a minimum, the 80% of Resource Area land that is grazed (p.19). We recognize your steempt to give priority treatment to those lands that provide critical wildlife and fisheries habitet, and concur that these lands should receive management emphasis. However, the remainder of the Resource Area must not be entirely neglected and allowed to be subject to continuing management practices if the data shows that these practices have allowed for continued degradation of vecetation and other resources.

100-13

It is extremely difficult for the public and other agencies to assess the potential significance of DPC management when no maps are provided that show the areas proposed for DPC treatment. In your RMPZES, please provide maps that disclose the location of proposed DPC treatment under each elternative. Such disclosure will make it possible for the public to greap the currulative significance of implementation of the DPC concept in the Resource Area and to provide meaningful comment.

100-14

In order for DPC management to be effectively implemented, an extremely intensive monitoring effort will be needed to see that the DPC definitions presented in Appendix I are being adhered to on the prescribed areas. How will the complex DPC definitions be implemented on the ground? Is monitoring and eventual echievement of such conditions really feesible given the limited budget upon which the BLM operates? We fear that DPC program goals will men little more than past attempts to control grazing abuses due to budget restrictions. Because this concept is untested and there is 'scientific uncertainty' as to be potential effectives and there is 'scientific uncertainty' as the potential effectives in the document in the event that you are unable to attain your DPC goals, as per the requirements of the NEPA (40 CFR 1502.22).

Finally, we question when the DPC program will in fact be implemented. The RMP states (p.24) that:

"If the resource conditions established in the RMP are not being met, changes in livestock grazing practices will be made as necessary to achieve these objectives over a reasonable period of time."

Who determines when changes in livestock practices are "necessary"? What constitutes a "reasonable" period of time? This language must be clarified in your final document.

Friends of the Inyo appreciates your ettempts to address problems associated with grazing, and to correct past and present management problems related to grazing. However, DFC's ere not an adequate substitute for addressing some decisions made in the grazing EIS's nearly ten years ego, specifically stocking lavels, utilization rates and seasons of use. These decisions deserve to be re-examined, in light of what we believe is the overall degraded condition of the Resource Area due to grazing. If necessary reductions are made in the level of grazing, there will be no need for implementation of an extremely intensive vegetation management program that is untested, and therefore of questionable success. The use of DFC's does not get at the root of

the primary reason for poor wildlife and habitat condition in the Resource Area. A "hard look" is needed with regards to the overall grazing management program in the Resource Area.

Grazing

Friends of the lnyo very strongly disagrees with the BLM's 100-15 decision not to directly address grazing in the RMP. What more appropriate place to analyze the effectiveness of the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville grazing EIS's (1981 and 1982, respectively) than in this broad planning document which supercedes the outdated MFP's (BLM Manual 43 CFR 1618.2), under which the grazing EIS's are tiered. There is overwhelming evidence presented throughout the RMP/EIS (particularly in Chapter III, the Affected Environment) that livestock grazing under current management practices has severely affected wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, water quality, soils and other resources of the Resource Area. We therefore find it incomprehensible that the BLM refuses to allow past grazing decisions to be reevaluated in this RMP and EIS. In order for the BLM to incorporate decisions made in the grazing EIS's into the current RMP and EIS, you must provide supporting documentation to verify that certain decisions made in those EIS's (particularly stocking levels, utilization rates and seasons of use) are still valid.

100-16

In your description of livestock grazing in the "Affected Environment" section of the RMP/EIS, you state (p.143) that "development or revision of 10 AMP's and construction of new range improvements have improved livestock distribution causing a subsequent improvement in

ecological vegetation condition and wildlife habitat." Which ten AMP's have been developed or revised over the past ten years for which this statement is true? What types of new range improvements have been made? What improvements in ecological vegetation condition have occurred as a result of your efforts? Please substantiate this statement in your final RMP/EIS. Also, we note that there are over 60 allotments in the Resource Area, as defined by the MFP's (Appendix 5, p.265-266). Have AMP's been completed for all of these allotments, as mandated by the MFP's? Please list in your final RMP/EIS the status of AMP's for each allotment

100-17

Your discussion of grazing in the Affected Environment section of the document should include a description of the Resource Area's overall grazing monitoring program, and how it has been implemented over the past ten years. Also, a summary of

100-17 | monitoring data collected over the past ten years should be cost. included in your document.

100-18

In the description of vegetation for the Affected Environment, Table 3-7 (p 134) displays the overall ecological condition of the Bishop Resource Area based on data collected in 1978 and 1980. The RMP/EIS states (p.132) that "The general condition of the two EIS areas is presented in Table 3-7." This implies that the present condition of the range is equal to the condition of the range that existed over ten years ago. We question this, and request that you use monitoring data collected over the past ten years to provide a table reflecting the present ecological condition of the Resource Area in your final RMP/EIS. This RMP provides a framework for management of the Resource Area for the next ten to twenty years, therefore it is critically important that the RMP provide accurate description of existing conditions with respect to the vegetative resource, as these will form the "baseline" conditions for the next planning cycle.

100-19

The damage inflicted by grazing to one vegetative resource, aspen communities, is documented in the RMP/EIS (p.132) and shows an extremely alarming trend. In 1980, 86% of aspen groves surveyed were found to be in "good to excellent" vegetative condition, and 83% of the acreage in "good to excellent" wildlife habitat condition. A 1988 resurvey of the same groves found only 21% in "good to excellent" vegetative condition, and only 6% in "good to excellent," wildlife habitat condition. Does this trend reflect trends in the overall ecological condition of vegetation in the Resource Area? These data certainly demonstrate the need for disclosure of the overall existing condition of range in the Resource Area

100-20

Damage by grazing is also documented to state-listed threatened and endangered plants, and federal candidate plant species. The RMP/EIS states (p.136) that

"Some sensitive plant habitats are currently being degraded by the effects of summer-long continuous livestock use. In some cases, plant vigor has been reduced and the ability of plants to flower and disperse seed is adversely affected."

Specific monitoring information must be provided in the RMP/EIS with regards to damage to endangered plant populations by grazing. This damage is unacceptable under the intent of the Endangered Species Act and state law, and discloses the need to reexamine seasons-of-use decisions made in the RMP.

cont.

It is only through the inclusion of adequate data that the 100-20 public and other agencies can assess the past effectiveness of the Resource Area in making "changes based upon monitoring of the resource" (p.38) and can determine whether certain decisions made in the grazing EIS's for the outdated MFP's must be reevaluated.

> The environmental analysis of imagets to livestock grazing (Chapter IV, p.200-202) are based on some questionable assumptions and an overall lack of data to substantiate the conclusions made. For further comments, please see the page-by-page comments re RMP, p.200-202.

100-21

Finally, a map outlining the allotments on the Resource Area is needed so that the public can note the relationship between various allotments, proposed DPC treatment and other resources.

Please see additional comments on grazing in our page-bypage comments.

Mining

Friends of the Invo commends you for attempting to plan for hardrock mining in the Resource Area. However, we find many contradictions in the discussion of mining in the document, and information is lacking that paints a clear picture of the potentially significant impacts that mineral exploration and development may have upon the Resource Area.

The range of alternatives for mining is inadequate under the 100-22 NEPA. Only two real alternatives are proposed for mineral withdrawl - 30.000 acres for the Present Management Alternative and the Natural Resources Enhancement Alternative, and 1,900-2.000 acres for the Custodial Management Alternative and the Proposed Alternative (p.37). Certainly there is a realistic and reasonable range of alternatives that can, and must, be considered between the parameters that the Bureau has defined (NEPA 40 CFR 1502.14(a)).

100-2

Information provided that accurately portrays the potential extremely significant impacts of mining to the Resource Area is lacking. The public is given a remote idea of the overall picture, by reference made to "major" and "super" projects (p.177-180). What and where exactly are these reasonably forseeable projects? In order for readers of the document to assess the significance of mining in the context of the affected region, the names and locations of reasonable forseeable projects must be disclosed in the

DIMP/FIS

100-24

We are stymied as to how conclusions regarding withdrawn, "effectively withdrawn", constrained, restricted, and limited deposits were reached in the comparative summary (Table 2-2, p.92-113) and in the section detailing impacts on mining (p.197-199). Data must be provided to substantiate the conclusions made.

100-25

The BLM must withdraw from mineral entry all lands that provide habitat for federally-listed threatened, endangered or candidate species. These lands should include habitat for the twelve species listed in Appendix 6 and any other federally-listed or candidate species not listed in the Appendix. By enacting withdrawls to protect the integrity of habitats for such species, the BLM will ably comply with federal law (45 CFR 78905, re resolution of conflicts between the 1872 Mining Law and the Endangered Species Act) and avoid future conflicts. Habitat for state-listed species should be withdrawn as well.

In handouts obtained of the "proposed action" (dreft preferred alternative. March 1990) for each of the nine Management Areas (MA's), proposed mineral withdrawls included the following areas: a section of Braley Creek and the tule elk calving area (Owens Lake MA) "the habitats of plants and animals identified as candidates for protection as threatened or endangered speices" (South Invo MA) geothermal leasing withdrawls to protect "unique and endangered species of wildlife" and in the southern Volcanic Tablelands (Benton MA), "a 3 mile buffer against geothermal development around the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area" (Granite Mountain MA., Travertine Hot Springs ACEC (Bodie Hills MA), and Virginia Creek (Bridgeport Valley MA). Other areas deserving of full withdrawl status include the entire southern Invo-Mountains (much of which are proposed for Wilderness by the BLIM), all proposed ACEC's and mineral withdrawl corridors along all Wild and Scenic River candidates. We also support locatable and leasable mineral withdrawls to protect archaeological and cultural resources, particularly in the Volcanic Tablelands and at Bodie.

We believe that enactment of the withdrawls proposed above is entirely reasonable given the large amount of acreage left open to mineral development, and will demonstrate the Resource Area's commitment to taking a "proactive" approach to resource management.

100-26

Standards and guidelines are proposed for Bodie "to determine when unnecessary and undue degradation occurs" in the National

100-26 cont.

Landmark (p.65). In order to strengthen your ability to enforce violations of unnecesary and undue degradation within Sec. 603 WSA's as mandated by FLPMA, a guideline that encompasses all future mineral exploration and development in WSA's within the Resource Area should be incorporated in the Area Manager's guidelines. The recent Castle Mountain agreement incorporates: use of the best reasonably available technology, and should be a model upon which mining plans at Bodie and elsewhere are based.

For further coments on mining please see our page-by-page comments.

Watershed Withdrawls

100-27

We are strongly opposed to the Bureau's proposal to recommend to Congresss revocation of Congressional and Executive Order watershed withdrawls. The BLM is directed by FLPMA to review all existing withdrawls, and you state in the RMP/EIS that the withdrawls are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were enacted. We contend that the watershed withdrawls are still necessary to afford protection to federal reserved water rights, which are senior to ensuing water rights. The federal government's 4e comment authority derives from these water rights; there are likely other implications of your proposal that must be considered relative to reserved water rights. The watershed withdrawls have also effectively prevented development and water-intensive uses of thousands of acres of public land.

100-28

While an Act of Congress could reinstate federal reserved water rights, the rights would be junior to other appropriative rights, giving the federal agencies much less authority to assert their water rights. The issue of federal reserved water rights is politically contentious (Congressman Lewis' Desert Bill would deny the federal government a reserved water right, as would other land management bills recently before Congress), and there is a chance that federal reserved water rights would not be reinstated. The BLM should not risk losing your senior water rights (and those of the Forest Service in the Mono Basin) by recommending revocation of the withdrawls.

100-29

Friends of the Invo is also opposed to lifting of the withdrawls because they have effectively prevented development on 600,000 acres of public land. We recognize the real need in some communities for adjacent public lands to be made available for development of community services and question whether it would. be possible to make needed lands available on a limited basis

100-29 | without opening up a Pandora's Box by proposing revocation of the cont. withdrawls

100-30

In any event, your treatment of this issue is inadequate in the RMP and EIS, and needs further NEPA analysis. The analysis should include discussion of the federal reserved water rights that derive from the enactment of the withdrawls (for instance, the "4e" comment authority and other implications of the water rights). The reserved water rights held by the Forest Service in the Scenic Area should be acknowledged. The environmental impacts of revocation (and retention) of the withdrawls should be thoroughly documented. Impacts addressed should include development potential on disposed lands, increased water demand in Inyo and Mono County communities due to increased development resulting from disposals, effects on Federally-listed species and cumulative impacts to other resources (including wildlife, fisheries, visual) resulting from disposals.

Finally, it appears that the primary reason that the Bureau supports revocation of the watershed withdrawls is because of land acquisition priorities and demand for disposal of public land to the private sector in Mono and Inyo counties. Your analysis of this issue should rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives (NEPA 40 CFR 1502.14(a)), including alternatives that explore other legislative options to make needed lands available on a limited basis for community development

Land Acquisitions and Disposals

100-31

Friends of the Inyo supports acquisition of private lands that provide valuable wildlife habitat or other values, such as Black Lake, and that are threatened by development, such as the Conway Ranch property. However, we are opposed to disposal of public lands, as it sets a stage for development and exploitation of some sensitive lands. For example, if lands are disposed of along highway 167 near the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, it is possible that intensive development could occur in this visually sensitive area. We are also strongly opposed to disposal of land for agricultural uses, as is proposed in the southern Owens Valley. We recognize the pressure for land to be made available adjacent to existing communities for development. We support this type of land disposal only where absolutely necessary (i.e., to provide land for development of community services). Land exchanges should be used as a method to dispose of land; we are opposed to outright sale of public lands. Finally, all disposal of public lands into the private sector must be subject to full public involvement and the

NEPA process.

Recreation

Recreation is an extremely significant "resource" on federal 100-32 lad in the eastern Sierra, and we appreciate the Bureau's efforts to wisely plan for the increasing number of visitors to the area, and attempts to provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities. While acknowledging the importance of recreation in our area, the Bureau should negure promote recreation at the expense of the natural resources, which the Preferred Alternative unfortunately does in some cases.

Proposed management for several Menagement Areas (MA's) in the Resource Area (sovers recreation at the possible expense of widthe and fisheries. This is particularly true for the Slinkard Valley in the Coleville MA, the Bodie Hills in the Bodie Hills MA and sensitive hot springs in the Long Valley MA (please see detailed comments in our page-by-page comments).

The primary menagement emphasis for recreation in the Bias property of the property of recreation activities. With \$8% of the Resource Area composed of Wilderness Study Areas, there are ample opportunities for a variety of recreation activities that are consistent with the wilderness character and IMP guidelines for these lands. The remainder of the Resource Area, in conjunction with adjacent National Forest lands, provides an abundant network of roads for QRV and mountain bike touring opportunities, and these activities should not be actively promoted within WSA's by the Resource Area.

We are especially concerned about proposals for GRY "route connectors" (p.56) in the Preferred Alternative. How does this proposal tier with development of the interagency GHY Plan, the High Desert ORY Plan, or with development of an GRY management plan in the Bodie Hills? The RNMP is not the areas for validation of any new route connectors fread "roads"). Site-specific analysis in one of the three appropriate documents must be completed. No decisions should be made as to GRY use in the Resource Area, GRY Project, and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and a Bodie Hills GRY Plan, with full public and the graph of the graph o

We believe that timely development of an ORV Plan for the Bodie Hills is essential. We question development of this latter plan through the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP)

100-34 cont. process. The CRMP process is an unknown to many members of the public who have a keen interest in management of this area. Development of an ORV Plan for the Bodie Hills <u>must</u> be subject to full public involvement and the NEPA process. An EA, or an EIS if a rigorous enelysis is warranted through public scoping, is mandated.

100-35

The introductory chapter of the final RMP/EIS should briefly discuss the development of the various ORV plans, as these plans will be tiered under this RMP and EIS (and the Inyo Forest Plan) and are an integral part of Resource Area management.

In conclusion, we support emphasis on managing for dispersed recreation opportunities. However, management for optimum vegetation and wildlife habitat for game and non-game species should always take priority over management for recreation.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

100-36

Friends of the Inyo supports Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation for all ten areas that have been identified as potential ACEC's in the RMP. In particular, we strongly support designation of a Bodie Mountain ACEC that encompasses the Bodie Bowl, Potato Peak-Bodie Peak, Rough Creek, Beauty Peak and the surrounding area (es proposed in Alternative 3). While an ACEC designation could still allow for development of valid existing mineral rights and for grazing to continuit, it would the support of the suppor

Wild and Scenic Rivers

100-37

We support the Resource Area's evaluation of ten candidate streams for potential designation as Wild and Scenie rivers. In particular, we believe that Rough Creek, Atastra Creek, and Green Creek are deserving of such special protection. Mill Creek in the Coleville Management Area also deserves to be considered for Wild and Scenie river status.

Other Designations

100-38

We strongly support permanent protection of the limited amount of old growth habitat that exists in the Resource Area

100-38 cent. through inclusion of the old growth stands in the Slinkard Valley and Little Antelope Valley in national Ancient Forest protection legislation (inc. Jonn's Bill & Vento Bill). The RMP (p.155) states that there are about 400° acres of old growth in this area. All of the remaining old growth should be permanently preserved, due to its limited occurrence in the Resource Area and the eastern Sierra. The associated undisturbed riparian stands should also be permanently protected. As stated on page 155, "The old growthyriparian stands...are considered to be a unique vegetation community/structure in the eastern Sierra due to the undisturbed nature of these stands. We would like me unique vegetation community-structure in the eastern Sierra due to the undisturbed nature of these stands. We would like me to the stands, as wall as their relationship to old growth habitat on adjacent. Notional Forest land, so that we may include them as a part of any pending Ancient Forest Lesislation.

Transmission Line Corridor

100-39

The inclusion of the powerline corridor study in the RMP and ES is wholly inappropriate and blatantly violates NEPA law. The stated 'demand' for an east-west corridor is poorly justified. The analysis of impacts is superficial and based on an overall lack of the corridor study has generated a shopping list of NEPA violations (see also discussion on NEPA compliance below).

100-40

The arguments that justify the "need" for the transmission line corridor (Appendix 8) are prepared by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), one of the primary proponents of the corridor. The 'need for additional electricity in Southern California is expected to increase dramatically in the near future" (RMP, p.274). Data is not provided to substantiate this conclusion. Furthermore, data is not provided to substantiate the "system reliability" arguments profered in the RMP/RSB. An independent analysis of the "need" for this corridor must be conducted.

It should also be noted that LADVP's stated "need" for system reliability and contention that circuits transmitting power from Las Vegas to Los Angeles are overloaded is in conflict with their recent attempts to acquire land and rights-of-way in the Las Vegas area for additional transmission line corridors, via the "Berman Bill' (see enclosed articles, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and Los Angeles Times, 1990).

100-41

The corridor plan is not in keeping with the emerging energy

17

policy of the United States, which emphasizes conservation and reduction of pollution. On January 15, 1991, the U.S. Environmental Cast.

Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled a plan to reduce nationwise electricity use by at least 10 percent, with the assistance of major corrorations (see enclosed article, San Francisco Chronicle, 116/91).

100-42

The analysis in the RMM/EIS generally states that health risks associated with transmission lines are minimal due to the small human populations in the corridor study areas (p.269-210). The logical extension of the preferred alternative would most certainly have potential effects upon the residents of Deep Springs College. The RMM/EIS states that "no link has been established between EMF and adverse human health effects"; however "studies are currently underway in Celifornia to determine health risks of exposure to electromagnetic radiation from sources such as electric power lines" (see enclosed article, ize Angeles Times, 1/69). In the case of human health, no assumptions should be made that there are no risks associated with EMF until proven otherwise.

100-43

The alternatives presented are poorly analyzed, based on inadequate data, and do not provide the decisionmaker or the public a clear basis for choice among alternatives (NEPA 40 CFR 1502.14). Choice of any of the three alternatives except "no action" would have significant adverse impacts upon natural resources. In some cases these impacts are not comparable; for example, impacts to wild horses and tule elk cannot be measured against eachother. as they have been done (p.90). Data is lacking to support conclusions made: it cannot truthfully be stated that impacts to wildlife, sensitive plants and other resources are "less" for one elternative than another, when the necessary site-specific studies have not been completed (p.89-90, 206-210). The "no action" alternative has not been fairly considered, nor have the impacts of such been properly identified. The Bureau and the Forest Service are to be reminded that the public overwhelmingly supports the "no action" alternative.

The fregmented nature of the study minimizes and obscures potentially significant impacts of the contrilor enstward of the study areas, and through the Owent Valley. We focus here on potential impacts east of Soldier Canyon, being the preferred alternative. The extended route through Soldier Canyon has to potential to significantly impact: archaeological resources; visual values; mule deer migration corridors; a proposed bighorn sheep reintroduction site; raptor populations; the vetlands associated with Deep Springs Lake; habitat for the plack toad and the snowy plover, both candidates for federal threatened/endangered species status: the

100-43 cent. Columbus Salt Marsh, Tonopah Resource Ares, BLM; and wilderness values associated with Wilderness Study Areas in the California Desert Conservation Area, Ridgecrest Resource Area, BLM (see Cilolwing letters and memors. Acting Area Manager, Ridgecrest to Area Manager, Buthop, 14/96; Area Manager, Tonopah to Area Manager, 1999, Area Manager, Buthop to Area Manager, Ridgecrest, with map showing potential bigions along the Manager, 1999, California Department of Pish and Game to Dennis Martin, 3/22/90;

100-44

The fragmented study bletantly violates the dictates of the NEPA, 40 cFE, 1502 55, which states that agencies, in evaluating the scope of an EIS, "shall consider" actions which may be (1) "connected actions", c10. 'cumulative actions" and (3) "simular actions". The length of corridor studied clearly meets all of these criteria, depending upon the larger action for its justification. The NEPA directs agencies to analyze such actions in one EIS "when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement."

The only manner in which to adequately assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed corridor study is to study its entire length. Friends of the lnyo therefore strongly recommends choice of the 'No Action' Alternative by the Bureau and the lnyo National Forest. If the proponents must continue to push this unsavory proposal upon the public lands users and the residents of the eastern Sierra, then the issue must be dealt with in a separate IEB that considers fully the implications of the proposal from vource to the control of the proposal from vource to the proposal that the proposal public proposal propos

Please see further comments on the transmission line corridor in our specific comments (re RNP, p.25, 30-31, 39, 49-5, 89-90, 162-717, 266-210). Also, enclosed is additional information detailing the importance of an unspoised beep Springs Valley to the public, wildlife and plent sightings in Deep Springs Valley, information on the Berman Bill, and a press release (IL/290) detailing a new source of electricity for LADWP and their commitment to "alternative energy sources and improving the environment".

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The RMP and EIS fail to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in many respects:

19

i The draft RNP and ES viciate 40 CFR ISOS 9(a). The lack of data provided in the draft, and the poor organization throughout obscure potentially significant impacts and "preclude meaningful analysis" by the public and other agencies.

The presentation of alternatives including the proposed action is inadequate. The alternatives should be "presented in comparative torm, thus-sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public "(d) CFR 1502.14) The comparision of alternatives (Table 2-2, p.92-113) is random and diorganized, and conclusions are unsubstantiated.

5. The powerline corridor alternatives are not "rigorously experció and objectively evaluated" (40 CFR 1502.14(6)). The selection of Soldier Canyon as the preferred alternative is without strong rationale and therefore appears prejudicial. The "no ection" alternative is not fully explored. Other reasonable alternative in mot within the jurisdiction of the lead agency are not explored (40

The range of alternatives with regard to proposed mineral withdrawls is inadequate. All "reasonable" alternatives must be "rigorously explored) and objectively evaluated/f (40 CFR 1502.14(a)). Certainly there is a reasonable range of alternatives between the 1,900 acres and 50,000 acres proposed for mineral withdrawl (p.37) that can and must be considered in the RMP and EIS.

5. The range of alternatives with regard to revocation of

The range of alternatives with regart to revocation in watershed withdra'ws is inadequate. All "reasonable" alternatives must be "rigorously explore(d) and objectively evaluate(d)" (40 CFR 1602.14(a)). Certainly there is a reasonable range of alternatives between the wholesale revocation and no revocation of withdrawls proposed, including exploration of other options.
 Unless data can be provided that supports the same levels of reasing under all alternatives, he range of alternatives relative to

stocking levels, utilization rates, and seasons of use is inadequate
(40 CFR 1502.14(a)).

Two Use (2014) (2014)

The Year-Wash.

100-49

The Teach Transport of the comparisons of alternatives are based, are not adequately discussed (502.16(dh)). Data to support conclusions made are not provided. The discussion of impacts is so general as to be meaningless relative to proposed actions.

3 Conservation potential of the "no action" alternative for the

100-49A transmission line corridor alternative is not discussed (40 CFR

160-46

1502.16(a)).

9. "Wheans to mitigate adverse environmental impacts" of the preferred alternative (with the exception of the transmission line corridor) are not discussed (40 CFR 1502.16(h)).

10. The RMP and EIS do not properly disclose that incomplete or 160-514 unavailable information exists relevant to DPC's and the

-52

(a) For the transmission line corridor, "the information relevant to adverse impacts is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives and the overall costs of obtaining it are not exorbitant" (emphasis added). The site-specific information relevant to wildlife, sensitive plants and archaeological resources must be obtained for all alternatives before rational choice of a preferred alternative can be made. The costs of obtaining the necessary information are included in the EIS to be ultimately prepared (RMP p.90) and are therefore not exorbitant. (40 CFR 1502.22(a)).

(b) The DPC concept is based on "scientific uncertainty". Therefore a "worst case analysis and an indication of the probability or improbability of its occurrence" must be included in the EIS (40 CFR 1502 22(h))

11. Methodologies used to prepare DPC definitions are not included in the RMP/EIS, as per the requirements of 40 CFR 1502.24. The 100-53 Bureau should "identify any methodologies used and (shall) make explicit reference by footnote to the scientific and other sources relied upon for conclusions in the statement."

12. The scope of the transmission line corridor study is woefully inadequate under the NEPA (40 CFR 1508.25). The corridor study and analysis has been highly fragmented, thereby minimizing the possible significance of impacts upon the human environment. The length of corridor studied is connected to, cumulative with and similar to the remainder of the proposed corridor not studied in this document. The agency "should...analyze these actions in the same impact statement, when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement" (40 CFR 1502.25(a)(3)) (emphasis added).

13. The RMP and EIS fail to adequately assess potentially significant impacts to federal threatened, endangered and candidate 100-55 species and their habitat. The cumulative severity of impacts to specific species and their habitats must be analyzed (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).

> Please see our specific comments for further discussion of these issues.

Conclusion

100-51

cont.

100-52

cont.

100-54

The RMP is so confusing in its layout that it is difficult to assess the cumulative significance of implementation of the plan on the environment. There are also numerous apparent contradictions throughout the plan, and data is lacking to support many of the conclusions made. Alternative 3, the "Natural Resource Enhancement" Alternative, appears to be the most

environmentally sound alternative, but there are fundamental defects within the plan that make it hard to support any one alternative.

Due to the fundamental defects in the RMP and EIS, we recommend that you consider several options: reissuing a draft for public review and comment or issuing a draft supplement to the RMP and EIS which provides the voluminous amount of information lacking (40 CFR 1502.9(a)&(c)). In this way, the public and other agencies can make meaningful comment as per the requirements of the NEPA, and the decision maker can be provided a "clear basis for choice" among alternatives (40 CFR 1502.14).

We appreciate what we believe are some excellent intentions by the Bishop Resource Area to plan proactively for the many conflicting demands on Bureau lands, and the hard work that the staff has put into preparing this document. Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please contact us if we may offer any clarification of our comments. Please keep us informed on the progress of the RMP and EIS. Thank you.

100-56

Seelly Miller Sally Miller

for Friends of the Invo Box 22 Lee Vining, CA 93541

cc: Mike Prather, Chair, Friends of the Invo Natural Resources Defense Council, Johanna Wald The Wilderness Society, Mike Gonella California Wilderness Coalition Jim Eaton

- "Corporations to Cut Pollution By Curbing Use of Electricity", San Francisco Chronicle, 1/16/91.
- "State Begins 3 Studies On Risks of Electromagmetic Radiation".
- Los Angeles Times, 1/16/91 - "Utility Corridor Bill Again Before Congress", newsletter of Friends
- of Nevada Wilderness, July/August, 1990
- "House OK's Swap of Santa Monicas Land for Site in Nevada", Los Angeles Times, fall, 1990
- "DWP Moves Forward With Alternative Energy Options", Press Release, November 2, 1990 22

- "Birding at Deep Springs Valley", Emilie Strauss, The Survivor-Quarterly Journal of Desert Survivors, Fall, 1990
- "Final Field Trip for 1990", Carla Scheidlinger, newsletter of the Bristlecone Chapter, California Native Plant Society, November, 1990
 maps deliniating WSA's CA-010-060B and CA-010-075.

Specific Comments

Chapter 1 - Introduction

190-37 p.19, Purpose and Need. The RMP notes that the existing land use plans have been updated. Has this happened by plan amendments? Please include a summary of any plan amendments that were enacted to update the MFPs, and that will be incorporated into the RMP. An Appendix would be an appropriate place to provide this information. Also, please list the "stateen place to provide this information," with the MFPs' (9.19) that would have required plan mendments and which helped to drive preparation of this RMP.

p.25, Recreation. Regarding the statement that "When visual rost-fill restrictions affect development, the developer's cost increases." The BLM oves no developer any favors. Development of public land, it can be argued, is a privilege, not a right. Under the multiple use guidelines of FLPMA, mineral and other resource-extractive uses are given no more precedence than are resource protection values (see Sec. 102(A)(8) vs. Sec. 102(A)(2)). This biased statement should be eliminated from the final RMP/FIS.

p.25, Land Ownership and Authorizations. Re the statement that there is considerable demand for transmission line routes other than 'via Las Vegas', the BLM should be aware that any justification of demand (either for system reliability or additional power) is in contradiction with a current legislative proposal being pushed by LADWP (one of the major proponents of the corridor proposed in the RMPP to authorize a new powerline corridor and land acquisitions through the Las Vegas area (the Berman Bill).

p.25, re Habitat Management Plans (HMP's). Please define this in your glossary. Under what conditions or for what species are HMP's prepared?

p.25, re OHV designations. How does the decision in the RMP to 100-00 feet ability formal OHV designations for all resource area lands' inferface with the engoing BLM-USFS update of the 1977 Interagency OHV Plan and with ORV use on lands in the Bodie Hills which were not included in that plan? What exactly do you mean by this statement? Specific designations of areas for ORV our means the properties of the planning processes for ORV use, and the necessary environmental analysis has not been completed, with full public

involvement, this decision should be dropped. It will be necessary for the BLM and the Forest Service to "establish formal OHV cest." designations" and to consider cumulative impacts of ORV use on the public lands in the eastern Sierre, but these decisions and analyses must be completed in the update of the Interagency OHV Plan.

Area Manager's Guidelines

- p 26, #1. We commend the BLM for prioritizing the maintenance of co-61 healthy vegetative communities, which are essential to a healthy ecosystem. It is stated that DPC's "represent the plan's resolution of conflicting uses of the vegetation." When a conflict arises, which will receive priority DPC goals or the "conflicting user"? This y-viscilize needs to be clarified and strengthened (see commended)
 - p.26, #2. This guideline appears to give precedence to maintenance of DPC's over livestock practices, for which the BLM is to heartly commended. However, it is arbitrarily worded and needs to be strenghtened to say that vegetative goals will be given preference in relation to livestock forese needs.
- p.26, #5. Again we commend you for what appears to be a possible of the project o
- p 26, 25. What is meant by 'to the extent practical'? Again, this root-13 is worthy goal but the arbitrary language needs to be removed in order clerify the guideline. In the example of a mining proposal that could significantly affect a riparian area, the proponent might argue that maintenance or restoration of the area is not prevent ornificting interpretation.
- 100-64 p.27, #8. Please see comments on guideline #3 re use of the word "generally".
- p.27, #9. The BLM must detail all existing amendments to the MiFP's that are incorporated into the RMP (as in this case) so that the public is fully informed of the implications of the amendments.

- | Ico-45 | An appendix to the RMP would be an appropriate place for this (see
- p.27, #10. If possible, the BLM should also include in the document a summary of those plans whose goals and action items are incorporated into the RMP.
 - p.27, #12. Please see comments above on ORV use (RMP, p.25).
- p.27, #22. Is this guideline truly enforceable? We question how loo-44 visual management objectives will be given priority over valid existing mineral rights.
- 100-17, re water and soil. Water quality and quantity, and condition
 100-17 of soils are critical resources on the Resource Area and should be
 addressed in the RMP, as was done for the Inyo National Forest
 Land and Resource Management Plan (1988). The discussion of
 water quality on page 129 of the RMP certainly suggests that water
 quality in particular is a significant issue.
- j 50, ACEC's. It would be helpful if you listed in this section the ten 160-68 are that meet the criteria for potential ACEC's, and the seven ACEC's recommended in your preferred alternative. Also, we have not been able to find acreages for the proposed ACEC's. Please list acreages for all proposed ACEC's in all alternatives in your final RNP/PEIS.
- p.30, Transmission Line Corridor. In the final RMP, please detail to-6-9 the "brief studies" of logical corridor extensions that have been completed by adjacent BLM jurisdictions, and that "ensure the extentions are tentatively feasible". Please also provide maps which depict the "logical corridor extensions" on adjacent jurisdictions.
- The Soldier Canyon corridor study area encompasses e. 2,055 acre section of the Paulus Section 202 WSA (As-010-0609). The adjacent Forest Service Paulus Roadies Area (RARE II #5060) was designated a "Multiple Use Area" in the layo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988), but adequate study of the adjoining Section 202 WSA was never completed (pleas see comments under "Wilderness Study Areas", and also letters of Sally Miller to Milke Ferguson dated March 19, 1990 and May 1, 1990, in Bishop Resource Area files). It also appears that the Queen Valley corridor study area might encompass a section of the White Mountain Section 202 WSA (CA-010-075), though this is much harder to ascertain from the man because the WSA is much

smaller than CA-010-060B. Maps are enclosed deliniating the Section 202 WSA's in question. These maps were obtained from doe Polilini at the Bishop Resource Area office in early summer,

The Bureau has pledged to address these Section 202 WSA's "in a separate review process outside this plan" (p.24). Therefore, no consideration of a Solidier Canyon alternative (and possible a Queen Valley alternative) can legally occur until this review process has been completed.

Please explain why the Inyo National Forest is issuing a sperarte Record of Decision for the powerline corridor portion of the RMP/EIS. This to us only demonstrates further that this study does not logically belong in the body of the RMP.

Chapter II - Alternatives

- p.36, Recreation/Trails. In the preferred alternative, "4-WJ route concerns are proposed." How does this interface with development of the interagency OHV Plan, the High Desert ORV Plan, or with development of an ORV management plain in the Bodie Hills? The RNP is not the arens for validation of new route connectors. No new route connectors can be proposed until site-specific analysis in the appropriate documents has been completed for these areas.
- p.36, re DPC acres. The Bureau states that with DPC treatment in too-73 Alternatives 3 and 4 there will be "special protection for several endangered or sensitive species". We point out that protection for endangered species is mandated by the Endangered Species Act, Protection of endangered species is not a "perk" of an alternative, but a requirement of law.
- p.37, Minerals. How, under the Present Management Alternative, 50,000 acres of land proposed for withdrawl from mining, yet under the Preferred Alternative, which is supposed to afford better resource protection, only 1,900 acres are proposed for withdrawl? How also can proposals for mineral withdrawl be the same under the preferred proposals for mineral withdrawl between the same under Enhancement Alternative?
- p. 38, Alternatives Eliminated From Detailed Study, re alternatives dealing with levels of use in certain grazing allotments. The BLM states that "current decisions from the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing EIS's allow changes based upon monitoring of the resource" as justification for not considering a range of

alternatives with respect to levels of use. We reiterate that these EES's are nearly ten years old, that the RMP does not disclose the results of monitoring data collected over the past ten years, and that if this data were disclosed as per the requirements of NEPA and the BLM Manual (Sec.168), we believe that it would clearly point out the need for revision of stocking levels (AUM's) and utilization rates on many allothems in the Resource Area.

p.39, #4 ("South of the Soldier Canyon Alternative"). The RMP distributes alternative #4 due to the existence of WSA's "on the east sade of the inyos". The RMP must disclose that the Soldier Canyon alternative will adversely affect a Section 202 WSA (see above), and has the potential to affect RLM WSA's and Forest Service "Semi-primitive Recreation" (Rr. #1). reas when the logical extension of the corridor is considered through Deep Springs Velley, White Mountain City and/or the Piper Mountain WSA. The BLM goes well outside the limited geographic scope of the three study areas in the RMP (i.e., east side of the inyo Mountains, in the Ridgerest Resource Area) when attempting to justify not choosing a certain state.

Resource Area-Wide Alternatives

Note: Many of our comments in this section apply to more than one alternative. We will not duplicate comments that apply to more than one section that were previously stated.

p.43-46. Alternative 3, Decisions.

- We support prohibition of groundwater pumping on all federal lands in order to protect the unique natural resources of our public lands. Please explain BLM's authority to prohibit this activity.
- We support emphasis on managing for dispersed recreation opportunities. However, management for optimum vegetation and wildlife habitat for game and non-game species should take priority over management for recreation.
- We strongly support seasonal closures of roads and trails in the 20-79 Resource Area to vehicle (and other) use, to protect wildlife habitat. We also support permanent closures of roads where vegetation, wildlife or fisheries are threatened.
- Vearing protection of sensitive (plant and animal) species

 toe-80 halitats should be a given for all alternatives and not a "perk" of
 Alternative 3. When a species is declared "sensitive", the goal is to
 prevent it from becoming threatened or endangered, therefore year
 round protection of habitat for sensitive species is a must.

 in Alternative 3, you propose "yearling protection of candidate

and listed species habitats". Under the Endangered Species Act, protection of threatened, endangered, and candidate species is

loo-8o "mandated until that species is removed from the list. This "decision" must be a given, under law, for <u>all</u> alternatives. It should be clearly stated in the Area Manager's Guidelines or a "general

policy guidelines" section.

100-81

100.84

100-85

- We support yearlong (i.e. permanent) protection of riparian and streamside habitats by instituting a buffer around these sensitive areas. Are you recommending a 150 buffer on each side or a 150 foot total (i.e. 75 feet each side) buffer? We recommend a minimum 150 foot buffer on each side of all sensitive areas. Again, this "decision" should be incorporated into the Area Manager's Guidelines. It is much more specific than the wording on p.26, #4, and would provide a better guideline for management of the

- What is meant by "articicial soils alteration rating"? What is meant by "bank protection rating"? These terms need to be defined in the glossary.

| Given the poor condition of range in the Resource Area, we question the livestock utilization rate of 60%. We believe that utilization rates need to be reexamined in this plan.

-Re the "decision" to "prohibit livestock grazing on Bureau land outside of the existing allotment boundaries." Inn't this a given? If portions of the Resource Area are not covered by existing allotments, we would assume that grazing naturally would not be a legal option in that area.

ta logar opeion in that are

p.46, Alternative 3, Support Needs. We concur that timely completion of the interagency OHV Plan is a necessary component of management of ELM lands in our area. We believe that completion of an ORV Plan for the Bodie Hills is equally essential. We question development of this latter plan through the CRMP process. The CRMP process is an unknown to many members of the public who have a keen interest in management of this area. Development of an ORV Plan for the Bodie Hills must be subject to full public involvement and the NEPA process. An EA, or an EEs if a rigorous analysis is warranted through public scoping, is mandated. In the introductory chapter of the final RIMP/EIS, the development of the various ORV plans must be briefly discussed, as development of the various ORV plans must be briefly discussed, so Forest Plan) and are an integral part of Resource Area

p.49-50. Alternative 4, Decisions.

- With regard to existing utility corridors, you state that "future facilities in these corridors will be allowed to exceed VRM and yearlong protection standards." This directly contradicts your Area Manager's Guideline #22 (p.27) which states that "Actions violating

VPM classes will not be allowed." If this is indeed the case, then what teeth at all do your VPM standards (and, for that matter, the Area Manager's Guidelines) have? Please correct or explain this discrepancy.

- Where is the location of the 1,900 acres of Resource Area land that is proposed for mineral withdrawl under the preferred alternative?

p.50. Alternative 4, Support Needs

- We concur that public education is essential to protection of our concerns of the Bishop Resource Area to educate the public. However, we would strongly prefer to see precious and often inadequate federal funding for BLM programs spent on field monitoring of the resources, rather than in classrooms and at Rotary Club meetings. Perhaps development of a chicker control process of the control process. The control process of the control process of the control process.

p 50. Alternative 4. Rationale.

There is no rationale for designation of Soldier Canyon as the preferred utility corridor alternative. Rationale for choice of Soldier Canyon should be included in your rationale for the area-wide preferred alternative, if you do indeed consider the entire corridor study as a lectimate part of this plan.

Alternatives for Individual Management Areas

Note: Many of our comments in this section apply to more than one Management Area (MA) and/or alternative (for example, those regarding DPC's, 60% ground cover on grazed lands, etc.). We will not duplicate comments that apply to more than one section that were previously stated.

p.55-56, Coleville MA, Alternative #3.

recreation

100-89 |- We support designation of Slinkard Valley as VRM Class I

- We support designation of the Slinkard ACEC for most of the MA (as designated on Alternative 5, Special Management Areas map) with management priority given to fisheries and wildlife over

100-90

- We strongly support permanent protection of the limited amount of old growth habitat that exists in the Resource Area. Studies should be completed to document the existence of any sensitive or state or federally listed threatened, endagered or candidate species that are old growth dependent ú.e. spotted owl, fisher, Sierra proposed for 250 ecros of old growth but the RNP (0.155) state that proposed for 250 ecros of old growth but the RNP (0.155) state that

100-91 cont. there are about 400 total acres of old growth in this area. All the remaining old growth should be permanently preserved, due to its limited occurrence in the Resource Area. The associated undisturbed riparian stands should also be permanently protected. As stated on page 155, "The old growth/riparian stands...are considered to be a unique vegetation community/structure in the eastern Sierre due to the undisturbed anture of these stands," We make the protection and the protection and the protection and the protection legislation.

100-92

- It is difficult to assess the significance of your proposed DPC treatments when only acreages find precentages also, of the total amount of each vegetative type for which DPC treatment is proposed are mentioned and no map exists to show the location of proposed DPC management. Please provide such information in your final document.

100-93

- We question the decision to "maintain a minimum of 60% ground cover on upland rangelands". What is the biological basis for maintenance of 60% ground cover? Does maintenance of this percentage of ground cover correspond to "good", "fair" or "poor" condition of the range? Is this directive incorporated from the grazing EIS", therefore you content that it is not subject to debate in your RMIP? Finally, if this directive does not apply to "low septimum, by segebrush, be segebrush, recated wheestgrass seedings where and south facing segebrush type", then to what vegetative communities does it apply.

100-9

| - We strongly support prohibition of grazing on the Dry Canyon and Slinkard Valley allotments. Grazing should be disallowed as well on any other allotments within the ACEC that provide habitat for state or federally listed T & E (and candidate) species.

100-95

p.55, Coleville MA, Support Needs.

- We are opposed to development of trails in the Slinkard ACEC. The natural resources in this area are so critical that development of trails might lead to conflicts between wildlife and habitat protection and recreational uses. In fact, the BLM acknowledges this on p.75 of the RMP. 'Habitat quality decreased on 10% of riparian acres through trail construction along Slinkard Creek Tributary 1." Trails might encourage OK and mountan bike use in addition to his, which could cause accelerated crossion. The glad resource is the propiets error and meadow degradation fragils areas. The BLM recognizes errors and meadow degradation fragils areas. The BLM recognizes developed the problems by allowing conflicting uses. In any event, consideration of trails in the ACEC should be addressed in the management plan for the ACEC and on a site-specific basis, not in this document.

31

- We support implementation of measures to restore meadows and control erosion in Slinkard Valley and Little Antelope Valley, and would like to see this be a funding priority.

p.56-57, Coleville MA, Alternative #4.

- We note that there is a decision in Alternative I (No Action) to 100-97 renolist construction of stream diversions on Bureau lands which would impact natural resources" (p.51). This decision should be added to your preferred alternative.

p.56-57. Coleville MA. Alternative 4. Rationale.

We strongly support the BLM's emphasis on protection and enhancement of valuable fisheries and widdlife habitat in this MA. We believe that you can attain your excellent goels for this area (given adequate funding, of course) by disallowing greating in sensitive areas, withdrawing from locatable mining habitats that host state or federally listed threatened, endangered and candiate plant and animal species, designating most of the MA as an ACEC and giving priority to habitat protection over recreation.

You acknowledge the damage that has occurred to natural

100-98

resources by "dispersed uncontrolled recreation use". We concur that it is possible to better manage that use but we question placing emphasis on increasing recreation use when damage has already occurred. What kind of recreation do you anticipate for this area? The only recreation uses compatible with designation of the Silnkard ACEC are low-impact dispersed uses such as hiking, fishing, birding, widdlife viewing and perhaps hunting. Intensive vehicle uses (including ORVing, mountain biking and for hunting access) would not be compatible with the primary management emphasis for this ACEC.

Finally, we question how that "With more intensive management, it will be possible to both increase recreation use and decrease the adverse impacts". In your final RMP/EIS, please detail how you intend to achieve this.

p.59-60, Bridgeport Valley MA, Alternative 3.

- We strongly support prohibition of grazing within the entire Conway Summit ACEC, in order to protect valuable riparian and seen habitet

100-100

- We are unsure of the size of your proposed ACEC at Conway Summit but we do not believe that trails should be constructed in the fregule riperian, aspen, or meadow areas for recreational use. The primary emphasis on management within this portion of the ACEC should be protection of habitat. Protection of visual values (a priority of the BLM) is implicit if habitat is adequately protected.

- We support mineral withdrawls at both Conway Summit ACEC and Travertine Hot Springs ACEC.

- What threatened and endangered species habitat exists at the

n 60. Bridgeport MA. Alternative 3. Support Needs.

p.bo, bringeport MA, Ameriative 3, support needs.

- Is the AMP to be developed for the Green Creek allotment tiered under the grazing EIS's for the MFP? If not, it needs to be subject to full public scrutiny in this EIS.

- As proviously stated, we are opposed to trail building in the fregile riperian, aspen and meadow communities at Conway Summit. Emphasis in this portion of the ACEC should be on preservation of habitat (and visual values). One can provide for recreational opportunities in this area without building trails through fregile ecoxystems that might fedilitate demange to these

p.61-82, Bridgeport Valley MA, Alternative 4, Rationale
We strongly support your proposal to enact locatable mineral
withdrawls along log Creek, Virginia Creek, and at Travertine Hot
Springs. In addition, we propose that Copper Mountain, the Jordan
Creek drainage and the area around Sinnamon Meadows be
withdrawn from mining as well. These locales are incredibly
scenic, are popular areas for recreation (mountain liking along
ensisting roads, birding, cross-country sking, hiding), and provided
important wildlife habitat. The upper Jordan Creek drainage
enroutes to Copper Mountain contains a beautiful assemblage of "old
location of the company of the contained of

the area in question appears to be close to the boundary from perusing the Toiyabe map). A leasable mineral withdrawl should also be enacted at Travertine Hot Springs ACEC, as there is high geothermal development potential in this area (RMP, p.137, and Benton-Owens Valley, Bodie-Colville FEIS, Wilderness

Recommendations, 1987).

100-103

p.63, Bodie Hills MA, Alternative 3.

- We support seller-willing acquisition of private land in the Bodie Hills that provides valuable wildlife habitat, protects cultural resources, and facilitates management of the area.

- We support restoration of streams in the Bodie Hills and think this should receive funding priority. The greatest improvement to quality of riparian and stream habitats will come through prohibition of grazing in all streamside areas. Rather than

implement only a bandaid approach to the problem, we urge the N.M to eliminate grazing in all riparian areas.

-We support prohibition of snowmobile use in important wildlife in the prohibition of snowmobile in the prohibition of snowmobile in the prohibition of snowmobile in the potential effectiveness of such closures. How will the areas be designated - with signs around the periphery? How will the closures be enforced? Will monitoring occur on a regular basis to ensure that damage is not occurring?

- We support ACEC designation for Copper Mountain, and elimination of grazing within the ACEC, to protect valuable mule deer and other wildlife habitat.

p.64, Bodie Hills MA, Alternative 3, Support Needs.

- We are strongly opposed to construction of new trails or ORV routes in the Bodie Hills for any type of recreation use. The RIMP states (p.149) that "...recreation use...has led to route extension and proliferation. In many cases, these uses have contributed to the deterioration of riparian ares and other wildlife habitat." There currently exist excellent opportunities for dispersed "wheeled" recreation and for horseback riding and hiking on existing roads. ways and trails. Regarding trail construction in particular, it should be noted that mountain bike use is incompatible with hiking and horseback riding - most hikers and horseback riders loathe sharing trails with mountain bikers due to safety concerns and the type of experience desired. Local mountain bikers appear to be content with the existing road and trail network. Given the concerns regarding the deleterious effects of roads on wildlife in the Bodie Hills, and proposals by wildlife biologists to close some roads, it is wholly inappropriate for the BLM to propose construction of new roads and trails which could compound problems for wildlife. - We concur that there is a demand for primitive-style camping in the Bodie Hills, and support low-cost and low-impact enhancement of this type of experience.

We believe that regular water quality analyses should be a funding priority in the Bodie Hills, in areas that are impacted by mining and greating activity. Furthermore, rigorous water quality analyses should be incorporated into all mining plans and greating AMPs.

p.64-66, Bodie Hills MA, Alternative 4.

- We question how you will maintain a VRM I standard of preservation in the Bodie Bowl, given valid existing rights. Won't valid existing rights have priority over visual quality standards?

| - We support closure of vehicle routes that impact important wildlife habitat, but are opposed to reroutes of existing routes.

100-115 | - You propose to use "standards and guidelines to determine when

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100-111

unnecessary and undue degradation occurs* in the National
loo-iis*
loomark (p.65) bo you mean the Area Manager's Guidelines (p.2627) or other standards and guidelines? We note that 'unnecessary
and undue degradation is defined (p.231) to include those practices
whose impacts are "greater than those that would normally be
expected." How do you define what would normally be expected?

p.66, Bodie Hills MA, Alternative 4, Support Needs.

- Again, we support your effort to formulate guidelines defining

'unnecessary and undue degradation' in the Bodie Historic

Landmark. This proposal should be applied to all mining activity
within Section 603 WSA's, as mandated by FLPMA.

p.66, Bodie Hills MA, Alternative 4, Rationale.

100-116

As written, your proposal for management of the Bodie Hills I. A will lead to further degradation of natural resources in the area, including vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, water quality, visual resources, and Wilderness values. This area has so many conflicting major uses (recreation, mining, grazing and wildlife) that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to accompdate them all. Under FLPMA, you are required to generally manage equally for protection of natural resource values (Sec. 102(a)(8)) and resource extractive uses (Sec. 102(a)(12)). However under Section 603, the greater emphasis is on protection of natural resource values for Wilderness Study Area lands: "...in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection" (Sec. 603(c)). You have made some effort to protect natural resource values in your proposed action, but these good intentions are negated by proposals such as: constructing new roads, ways and trails; general overemphasis on recreational use; failure to propose any critical habitat for withdrawl from locatable mining; failure to allow the grazing issue to be openly dealt with; and failure to propose an ACEC designation for most of the Bodie Hills region, which would give equal emphasis to protection of natural resource values and would help to garner more funding to protect this unique and beautiful area of national concern.

Your statement regarding the Bodie Bowl that 'This alternative will limit mining or other uses which would diminish the historic integrity of the National Landmark. The management of the area will remain open to mining' is completely contusing and seemingly contradictory. No vean you protect the integration of the property of the pr

"unnecessary and undue degradation" in the Bodie Bowl area might card:
billing the service impacts caused by ongoing activity but will do little to prevent further appropriation by mining interests and ensuing battles over mining activity there. Further, we do not under stand how your proposal for a VRM class I area in the Bodie rights.

We believe that there currently exist excellent opportunities in Bode Hills for a variety of recreational pursuits including hiking, birding camping, beckpecking, cross-country sking, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, 6W touring, historical and archaeological interpretation and snowmobiling. However, all types of recreation should receive secondary management emphasis after habitat protection for vegetation and wildlife. No recreational activities should be allowed that compromise the health of the ecosystem and its inhabitants. This is especially critical in an area such as the Bydie Hills, where there exists potential for significant, adverse cumulative impacts to natural resource values through a variety of resource intensive activities, most notably mining and grazing.

p.68-69, Grante Mountain MA, Alternative 3.

9 we support your recreation management philosophy in this area.
Knowing of the need to provide for dispersed recreation in the
Resource Area, we believe that this MA can better accommodate an
emphasis on dispersed recreation than the Bodie Hills or parts of
the sensitive Volonic Tablelands region. We do not support heavy
promotion of recreation. Rather we believe that promotion of
promotion of recreation. Rather we believe that promotion of
Servico's Comprehense to the Commisters with that of the Forest
Servico's Comprehense to the Commisters with that of the Forest
Basin National Forest Scenic Area (1989), which emphasizes dispersed
recreation and self-discovery (CMP, p. 36).

|- We strongly support your decision in this alternative to allow no net increase in road mileage for this M.A. |- We believe that a VRM Class I objective of preservation for the

|00-121| Mono Basin is consistent with the Forest Service's direction to protect the outstanding visual qualities of the Scenic Area.

- We believe that your goals to stabilize Adobe Creek and to

enhance waterfowl habitet in the Adobe Valley area are excellent,
a however we cannot imagine any substantial improvements in
habitat quality in this area without heavy modification of grazing
practices. This area should receive funding priority for hebitat
improvements in conjunction with a reduction in AUM's and
modification of grazing practices.

| - What is meant by "selective removal of decadent vegetation"? In what area is this proposed? We are opposed to intensive vegetation

35

- manipulation and especially to use of herbicides. A "let burn" policy is perhaps the best way to "manipulate" "decadent" gestetation.
- | Vegetation. | Vehat is meant by "yearlong protection within 1 mile of the Mono | 100-124 | Basin National Forest Scenic Area to protect the velwished"? | Yearlong protection of what?
- We support prohibition of grazing in any allotments to improve wildline habitat.

 We support prohibition of a reading in any allotments is needed with the state of the stat
- | We strongly support protection of the jeffrey pines and habitat along Dry Creek.

p.69, Granite Mountain MA, Support Needs.

- 100-127 | Please define "scenic easement" in your glossary.
- We support acquisition of private land to protect habitat and other values. In particular, we support acquisition of Black Lake and the Convay Ranch property.
- p.69-70, Granite Mountain MA, Alternative 4.

 The statement "No net increase in roads over mileage provided for in OHV studies' should be added to you preferred alternative.
- for in ORV studies' should be added to you please its determined.

 p.70-71, Granite Mountain MA, Alternative 4, Rationale.

 We support your management philosophy for Alternative 5.
- | Ioo-ISI | over-your preferred mangement philosophy for this area. VRM | observed management philosophy for this area. VRM | observed management philosophy for the MA if not adequately protect the outstanding visual resources of the MA if no restrictions are pleaded on locatable and leasable mineral development. We support locatable mineral withdrawls in Adobe | observed management with the Mono Basin. We support a leasable mineral withdrawl (i.e. a 5 mile buffer against geothermal development) around the Mono Basin National Forest
- Scenic Area to protect visual quality and water resources. Goals to improve key wildlife habitat are laudable but only constitute a "bendaid approach" if not complemented by reductions and modifications in grazing practices.
- Knowing of the need to provide for dispersed recreation in the loc-133 Resource Area, we believe that this IM can better accomposate an emphasis on dispersed recreation than the Bodie Hills or parts of the sensitive Volcanic Tablelands region. We do not support heavy promotion of recreation. Rather we believe that promotion of recreation in this area should be consistent with that of the Forest

Ico-735 Service's Comprehensive Management Plan for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (1989), which emphasizes dispersed recreation and self-discovery (CMP, p. 356).

p.72. Long Valley MA, Alternative 3.

We strongly support the management philosophy of Alternative 3 for this MA, with its primary emphasis on protection of abhitst for sensitive plants and wildlife, and a secondary

A chabitat for sensitive plants and wildlife, and a secondary emphasis on recreation and geothermal development. We are opposed to development of trails for mountain biking, given the large network of roads that exists in this area. We are also strongly opposed to intensive promotion of hot tub use. As stated on page 155 of the RMP, "Recreational use of thermal springs...also degrades meadow habitat conditions" in addition to the springs themselves). This has already occurred (p.155). And, as noted in the Comparative impacts of Alternatives by Management Area table (p.105), "Hot tub' use would degrade habitat at 1-6 springs." Where endemic, sensitive, threatened or endangered species are concerned, this is an unacceptable impact.

p.73-74, Long Valley MA, Alternative 4.

This area hosts critical habitat for many plant and animal leo-i35 spices including sage grouse, mule deer, diving beetle, Owens tui chub, Owens speckled dace, Great Basin springsnail, Astragalus lohennis howell. Firsonum ampullaceum, and Astragalus in habitat for waterfowl and raptors, including the bald eagle and other sensitive avian species. Increased and intensive recreation use, as proposed in Alternative 4, has already adversely affected sensitive plant and animal populations in this critical area (p.155). Our comments on recreation in Alternative Sapply here as well. Geothermal development also has the potential to adversely affect these string and the proposed in Alternative and animal populations. As proposed in Alternative string and animal populations.

4 for the Benton MA, geothermal leasing and other activities

Affecting the aquifer should at a minimum be prohibited "within I mile of thermal water sources essential to listed, candidate, and unique species" (p.77).

We question your reliance on the "world energy situation" (p.6-137) (p.74) to lessen the spectre of potentially significant impacts from goothermal development. The world energy situation is currently highly volatile. Even if the current situation mellows, periodic

(p.74) to lessen the spectre of potentially significant impacts from geothermal development. The world energy situation is currently highly voletile. Even if the current situation mellows, periodic resurgences of instability with regard to the energy situation are bound to occur (coal-fixed power plants, development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, offshore oil development, Sandia exploration of the Long Valley area, to name a few examples). The

3

100-137 cont.

RMP must consider a "worst case scenario" with regard to geothermal development in our area, and must disclose the potentially significant impacts of such a scenario, as per the requirements of the NEPA (40 CFR 1502.22(b)(2)).

p.75-78, Benton MA. Alternative 3 and 4.

100-138

Statements with regards to recreation in the South Tablelands area are contradictory. You propose to "Enhance semi-primitive dispersed non-motorized opportunities in the south Tableland area, and provide physical settings for activities including hiking. mountain biking, sightseeing, and resource interpretation", which we fully support. You propose to emphasize semi-primitive motorized recreation in the northern Tablelands area, thereby wisely (and proactively) attempting to meet the demand for conflicting recreational uses throughout the Tablelands. What we don't understand is the following statement: "Allow no new roads in the south Tableland except for those identified in the High Desert OHV Plan". Allowing any new roads in the south Tablelands area (with ensuing use by ORV'ers) greatly conflicts with your proposed management for low-impact, non-motorized recreation in this area. Furthermore, you propose "yearlong protection (of) the south Tableland to protect semi-primitive retreation opportunities, and scenic and cultural values" (p.76). Wa submit that ORV use does not constitute "semi-primitive" recreation, and that scenic and cultural values will not be protected by allowing new road construction. It is well known that increased access is one of the primary causes leading to vandalism of cultural sites.

100-139

We support your many proposals to protect critical plant and animal habitat in the Fish Slough area. We believe that a concurrent reduction or elimination of grazing in these critical areas is warranted. We strongly support your proposal to prohibit geothermal leasing and other activities affecting the aquifer in areas that provide habitat for unique, candidate or listed species.

100-140

We are greatly concerned by the proposal to dispose of 5,383 acres of Bureau land for various uses. In an area where water usage is hotly contested and water resources are limited, this proposal could result in significant adverse impacts to the region The EIS must disclose the potential impacts of such large-scale proposals in your environmental analysis.

p.81-83, Owens Valley MA, Alternative 4. | - To your support needs should be added: "Conduct an intensive 160-141 cultural resource inventory of the Crater Mountain Lava Flow", es mentioned on p.79 under Alternative 2.

We are strongly opposed to disposal of public land to provide 100-142 for agricultural use for the same reasons as above. Where is this land located? Will any sensitive or listed species be affected? The EIS must disclose the potential impacts of such large-scale proposals in your environmental analysis.

100-143

We believe that the BLM should not make establishment of an environmental education center a priority. We want to see the 750,000 acres of public land that you manage adequately monitored for the variety of uses and impacts that occur, changing conditions and such. We support development of educational materials for dispersal to classrooms and the general public, with staffing priorities placed on proper management, monitoring and evaluation of Resource Area land uses.

p.84-87. South Invo MA. Alternative 3 and 4.

100-144

- We are strongly opposed to disposal of public land in this area for agricultural use, as you state (p.162) that "Bureau land disposals (in this MA) for agricultural development have the potential to eliminate a large portion of the candidate dune weevil habitat." This is unacceptable and violates the intent of the Endangered Species Act.

- We support management of the "suitable" portion of the 100-145 Southern Invo WSA as Wilderness, but contend that the entire WSA should be managed to protect Wilderness values. Further, as previously stated, all WSA's must be managed to protect. Wilderness values until Congress has made a decision on Wilderness. as per the guidelines for lands under Wilderness review (BLM Manual H-8550-1).

- We support ACEC designation for the bristlecone pine forest at 100-146 Keynot Peak. However, since the BLM supports designation of this area as Wilderness and this area will be managed to protect Wilderness values in the interim, we think that designation of this area as an ACEC is much lower priority than all other areas proposed for ACEC designation. Campfires should be prohibited in all areas that harbor bristlecone pine forest, whether or not they are designated as an ACEC, to protect the integrity of this unique vegetation type.

100-147 - We very strongly support reintroduction of highorn sheep in the southern Inyo Mountains. - We are very strongly opposed to development of water sources

100-148

in the Inyo Mountains for the benefit of "harvest" species. We strongly suspect that development of water sources would entail diversions from springs, seeps, and streams in the Inyos, which provide habitat for the candidate Invo Mountains Slender

Salamander (how else could water developments be accomplished in this arid region?). As stated on page 160, "Water diversion from a 100-148 spring ... are the primary contributors to impacts on wildlife and their habitat". This tradeoff is wholly unacceptable, and violates the intent of the Endangered Species Act. Please keep us informed

of the status of such proposals. - We support locatable and leasable mineral withdrawls for the entire Southern Inyo and Cerro Gordo WSA's, to protect habitat for the Invo Mountains Slender Salamander and Wilderness values, as

well as visual resources and opportunities for primitive recreation. - We note that your proposal to prohibit livestock grazing is consistent with grazing use in this MA, i.e. there are no allotments

- We support protection and interpretation of the salt tram.

p.87, South Inyo MA, Alternative 4, Rationale.

What type of "recreation improvements" are proposed for this MA, besides easements for improved hiking access and interpretive . facilities as Pat Keyes trailhead? It is premature to consider any new trails development before designation of Wilderness and consideration in a Wilderness Management Plan.

Please see our comments above for our positions on other aspects of your rationale.

p.88-89, Owens Lake MA, Alternative 3 and 4.

- We are strongly opposed to disposal of public land to provide for agricultural use, as you state (p.162) that "Bureau land disposals (in this MA) for agricultural development have the potential to eliminate habitat for tule elk, snowy plover and Owens dune weevil." This is unacceptable and violates the intent of the

Endangered Species Act. 100-152 | - What is a "riparian composition area" as per Ash Creek?

p.89. Alternative 4, Rationale.

100-149

100-150

100-151

100-153

We support your management philosophy to emphasize protection of wildlife habitat in this management area, and not to dispose of land for agricultural uses. We believe that VRM goals for the area surrounding Owens Lake should be VRM Class II retention of existing character). The MA is already severely degraded, and a goal of retention will prevent further degradation of the visual resource. Your statement that "new transmission lines or other intensive land uses will not harm the scenery much on the west side of the Owens lake Mangement Area because there are already three major transmission lines along this route" is ludicrous. The cumulative impacts of additional transmission line

100-153 | construction to visual and other resources must be considered.

East-West Transmission Line Corridor Alternatives (p.89-91) n 89-90. Rationale.

Re the statement "These are alternatives for bringing power from Nevada to Los Angeles via the Owens Valley". Where in 100-154 Nevada? Your analysis must disclose the locations of power sources for the proposed tramsmission line corridor. Does the BLM expect the public to buy this thing blindfolded?

With regards to benefits of providing "additional stability to 100-155 the regional electrical supply system", we point out that the proposed action to designate a utility corridor through the eastern Sierra does not provide "regional" benefits to the residents of the area. Designation of a utility corridor through our area solely benefits LADWP, and perhaps the residents of Los Angeles if the reliability argument is to be believed.

Regarding the statement that "...the visual impacts and 100-156 impacts to sensitive plants (of the Soldier Canyon alternative) are acceptable", the visual impacts and impacts to sensitive plants in this pristine area are not acceptable to Friends of the Inyo. In particular, no impacts to sensitive plants can be acceptable when the sensitive plant resource is unknown (the area has not been surveyed for sensitive plant species). Your decision must be based upon the best available data. How can accurate comparisions of alternatives and choice of the most environmentally sound alternative be made when the necessary data collection has not been completed?

There is potential bighorn sheep reintroduction habitat in the 100-157 Soldier Canyon area (see Forest Service memo, December 14, 1989, p.3) and in Deep Springs Valley (see comments of CADFG to Dennis Martin March 22, 1990). This must be noted in your documentation and analysis of the powerline corridor study.

According to your description of the Affected Environment (p. 100-158 162-171) impacts to cultural resources from choice of the Soldier Canvon alternative would be equal to those of the Pizona alternative (40 sites) and greater than the Queen Valley alternative (less sites than Pizona and Soldier Canvon alternatives). The statement that "impacts to cultural resources would be less" is patently false.

Because different wildlife species occupy the areas considered 100-159 for corridor designation (i.e. tule elk vs. mule deer), it is impossible

100-159 cont.

to make meaningful comparisions of impacts to wildlife, and to state that one area will receive less impact to wildlife ("...impacts to key wildlife species...would be less"). Also, site-specific wildlife studies need to be completed in order to make a determination that there aren't other sensitive species that utilize the areas.

In sum, your ratonale for the preferred alternative is illogical and ludicrous.

p.90, Conditions.

100-160

We reiterate that site-specific environmental analyses (wildlife, vegetation and cultural resources) must be completed before designation of a preferred powerline corridor alternative, in order that your decision be based on the best available data. These studies should be part of an EIS for designation of a powerline corridor, if the BLM and Forest Service choose to continue to pursue the project.

100-161

We find no "Comparative Summary of the Impacts of Alternatives" for the powerline corridor in Table 2-2.

Impacts of Alternatives by Management Area (p.92-113)

100-162

This section is one of the most confusing portions of the document. The table is random and disorganized. Conclusions are made that are not substantiated elsewhere in the RMP/EIS. How can the public and other agencies adequately compare the impacts of each alternative, as required by the NEPA (40 CFR 1502.14), and give you appropriate feedback when the presentation here is so poor? This section needs to be overhauled to make it meaningful, and to "provide a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public" (id.).

- Where is the Golden Gate Mine area? Existing and reasonably 100-163 forseeable mineral exploration and development must be disclosed

- How is "loss of up to 18% (9 acres) of riparian vegetation possible through diversion of up to 5% of stream/spring flow" in keeping with the management emphasis on wildlife habitat enhancement for this MA (p.56)? Where is this diversion planned? Is this a proposal by the BLM or a water rights holder? No water should be diverted for grazing at the expense of riparian-dependent vegetation and wildlife, given your preferred management emphasis.

100-165 cont.

saleable minerals will be effectively withdrawn from development..." under your preferred alternative? How did you arrive at conclusions for the other alternatives? Why is the "current management" alternative (Alternative 1) more restrictive than the preferred alternative?

- How do you conclude that, under Alternative 3, "100% of the locateable and 99% of the saleable minerals will be effectively withdrawn from development due to environmental restrictions"? No mineral withdrawls are proposed for the Coleville M.A. in this alternative. Is DPC treatment prescribed for 100% of the acreage that contains locatable minerals?

Bridgeport

- When future development resluting from a land disposal "may 100-166 violate VRM Class III standards along a 1 mile viewshed of the highway" (preferred alternative), what happens - do you allow the violation to occur and amend your RMP or do you not allow the land disposal that would facilitate the development? What is your policy? Further, why are you proposing a land disposal that you predict will violate your own standards?

- For what 4 sensitive species is habitat improved under your 100-167 preferred alternative?

- How do you arrive at the conclusions (i.e. percentage estimates) 100-168 regarding undevelopable locateable minerals?

- How do you arrive at the conclusions (i.e. percentage estimates) 100-169 regarding improvements to wildlife?

Bodie Hills

- We are aware of the "severe localized degradation from mineral exploration/development" that may occur in the Bodie Bowl. However mineral exploration/development plans for Potato Peak have not been disclosed in the RMP. Alternative I references severe localized degradation at Potato Peak and Alternatives 3 and 4 state that "Local scenic values at Potato Peak would be degraded from minerals activity." If you make these conclusions, you must provide some basis for them (i.e. supporting documentation) in your document. What is the status of mineral exploration/development at Potato Peak?

100-171

- We find it interesting that you note here that "Adverse impacts (of Alternative 4) to recreation values in the Bowl/Historic Landmark would be the same as Alternative I": impacts of Alternative I are "severe localized degradation from mineral exploration/development in the Bodie Bowl*. Why then do you state in your rationale for the preferred alternative (p.66) that "This alternative will limit mining or other uses which would diminish the historic integrity of the National Landmark*2 It.

100-165 - How did you conclude that "60% of the locateable and 99% of the

| 100-171 | seems that according to your analysis here, the preferred alternative will actually do little to protect the values at Bodie. Your conclusions must be consistent throughout the document.

- You state that for Alternative 3 "45% of the locateable minerals (including the Galactic Bodie deposit)...will be effectively

(including the Galactic Bodie deposit). will be effectively withdrawn..." We question how any BLM restrictions can affect valid existing rights on public lands and mineral development on private land at Bodie, that is, how the Galactic Bodie deposit will be 'effectively withdrawn' from mineral development.

- Again, we question how you arrived at conclusions relating to

Granite Mountain

- Chemical spraying is mentioned in Alternative 1. Is this also posed for Alternative 4? Such a proposal was not discussed in our proposed action in Chapter 2.

We question how you arrived at the conclusions in this and other MA's regarding percentage habitat improvement for various

is-pecies.

- You state that for Alternative 4 "70% of the 5 mile buffer zone around Mono Lake is in an area of high geothermal potential."

What 5 mile buffer zone? In your rationale for the preferred alternative you very clearly stated that you did not believe a huffer zone to be necessary.

Bentor

- The discussion of recreation use in the four alternatives illustrate well the random and disorganized nature of this entire section. For Alternatives I and 2 you discuss the impacts expected at Fish Slough and no mention is made of South Tableland, in Alternatives 3 and 4 you discuss impacts expected at South Tableland but make no mention of Fish Slough. An analysis of comparative impacts must be made for the same resource.

Long Valley

You state that "hot tub" use would degrade habitat at 1-6 sportings. Which springs? Would habitats for listed, candidate or sensitive species be affected? As previously stated, this is a wholly unacceptable impact.

| - What sensitive plant populations would be lost? Again, it is unacceptable to provide recreation at the expense of sensitive and listed plant and animal populations.

- is the VEM II standard of "retention" really so restrictive that it 100-179 will disallow look of locatable and saleable minerals development? How did you reach this conclusion? What about valid existing rights? Owens Valley

-What new populations of endangered species would occur on Bureau land? What habitat and populations of 5 ensitive species would be degraded or lost? If you are aware of proposed actions that may cause a sensitive species to become threatened or endangered or that may cause new populations of endangered species to emerge, then those activities must be disallowed under action #12 of your SOP's for wildlife (p.271), and under the ESA.

Owens Lake

100-181 - What habitat for endangered species would be expanded into the MA under Alternative 4?

Powerline Corridor

- There is no comparison of impacts of corridor alternatives in 100-162 Chapter II, which 'is the heart of the environmental impact statement' (NEPA 40 CFR 1502.14). This must be rectified in the final RMP.

Chapter III - Affected Environment

p.117. Vehicle Use. We take issue with the statement that "Bureau loo-183 and lend themselves to management which emphasizes semi-primitive motorized opportunities." Please add the word "some" before "Bureau" and the word "vehicular" before "management" to avoid the prejudicial notion that all Bureau lands are appropriate for this type of use.

p. 118, Recreational Opportunities. You neglected to mention that holder is a significant use of Resource Area land, especially in: Bodie Hills (primarily Potato Peak and Bodie Mountain, also along Rough Creek), Granite Mountain, Conway Summit area, Volcanic Tablidiands, Fish Slough, Crater Mountain, and the Southern Inyo mountains. Groups including Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Sierra Club chapters and Desert Survivors have led hikes into some of these areas.

p.128, Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species. Your treatment of candidate species in this section is inadequate. The list of candidate species should be within the body of the RMP and EIS, not solely in the Appendix. Which 4 candidate species lack complete inventories?

p.129, Aquatic and Fisheries Habitat. What are the parameters used to define condition of streams in the Resource Area? You note the condition of streams but do not state whether the

45

100-186 cont.

conditions given are based on 1978/1979 data or on 1998/1989 data. What is the current condition of streams in the Resource Area? What types of changes have occurred over the last ten years? You mention need for stream restoration; of i46 stream miles an overwhelming 81% either need restoration (45%) or "could use some habitat improvement" (36%). Are these figures based on 1978/1979 data or on 1988/1989 data? What changes have occurred over the past ten years with regard to the need for stream restoration?

100-187

Water quality is stated to be "generally good", yet the following paragraphs contradict this statement.

The levels of mercury and arsenic in Bodie Creek exceed both human health and viable coldwater aquatic habitat standards. When was this data collected? Was any action taken? Are these water quality violations due to past mining practices? Has the stream been regularly tested since Galactic began exploratory operations at Bodie?

The "sediment pollution problem deserves serious consideration 100-188 from a water quality standpoint" yet the BLM neglects to consider water quality as a significant issue in this RMP (p.27). Perhaps you should reevaluate your decision not to directly address water quality in this document.

100-189

p.132-135. Vegetation. In the description of vegetation, Table 3-7 (n.134) displays the overall ecological condition of the Bishop Resource Area based on data collected in 1978 and 1980. The RMP/EIS states that "The general condition of the two EIS areas is presented in Table 3-7." This implies that the present condition of the range is equal to the condition of the range that existed over ten years ago. We question this, and request that you use monitoring data collected over the past ten years to provide a table reflecting the present ecological condition of the Resource Area in your final RMP/EIS. This RMP provides a framework for management of the Resource Area for the next ten to twenty years, therefore it is critically important that the RMP provide accurate description of existing conditions with respect to the vegetative resource, as these will form the "baseline" conditions for the next planning cycle.

The damage inflicted by grazing to one vegetative resource, aspen communities, is documented here and shows an extremely alarming trend. In 1980, 86% of aspen groves surveyed were found to be in "good to excellent" vegetative condition, and 83% of the acreage in "good to excellent" wildlife habitat condition. A 1988

100-190 cent

resurvey of the same groves found only 21% in "good to excellent" vegetative condition, and only 6% in "good to excellent" wildlife habitat condition Does this trend reflect trends in the overall ecological condition of vegetation in the Resource Area? These data demonstrate the need for disclosure of the overall existing condition of range in the Resource Area.

100-191

For riparian communities, information is provided regarding the condition of the resource that existed in 1978-1980. How does data collected over the past ten years reflect the current condition of this resource? Please include information in the final RMP/EIS that discusses existing condition of riparian resources.

100-192

p.136. Threatened and Endangered plants. Specific monitoring information must be provided in the RMP/EIS with regards to damage to endangered plant populations by grazing, road maintenance and "general recreational use."

100-193

p.136-139. Minerals. Please correct the erroneous statement that "the annual number of mining projects has decreased in the region over the past 5 years" to reflect the current gold boom in the west. particularly through use of the cyanide heap leaching process.

100-194

Please provide justification to support the "likely" exploration and development in each of the mining areas listed on page 136, as per the requirements of the BLM Manual (Section 1624). Data provided should include the location of mining claims (on a map). information about mineral potential for locatable minerals that is more specific than that listed in Table 3-8 (p.138), and the true likelihood of exploration and development in each of these areas. In particular, all claims and patents for gold in the Resource Area should be detailed, as mineral exploration and development of sold is reasonably forseeable in portions of the Resource Area.

100-195

p.139. Watershed Withdrawls. The RMP/EIS should note that the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area is also under withdrawl status by the Act of Congress of 1931.

100-196

p.143, Livestock Grazing. Please provide data to substantiate the conclusion that "development or revision of 10 AMP's and construction of

new range improvements have improved livestock distribution causing a subsequent improvement in ecological vegetation condition and wildlife habitat."

Which ten AMP's have been developed or revised over the past ten years for which this statement is true? What types of new range

I improvements have been made? What improvements in ecological obviously biased language in favor of the Soldier Canyon cont. vegetation condition have occurred as a result of your efforts? 100-205 Alternative makes a mockery of the NEPA's directive to clearly and objectively present and compare alternatives (40 CFR 1508 14(a)). in cont. p.148, Bridgeport Valley MA. Habitat for which 4 sensitive species order that the public is fully and accurately informed and the best 100-197 occurs in this MA? decision can be made by the decisionmaker. Please detail "...substantial positive change(s) in grazing p.168. Queen Valley Intro. Please determine if the Queen Valley 100-206 100-198 management practices..." (emphasis added) for the Green Creek and Alternative encompasses BLM WSA CA-010-075 (see comments on Dog Creek allotments. This statement seems to contradict page 4, re p.38-39 of the RMP/EIS) and if so, state that in the description of the affected environment for this alternative. information provided in the following paragraphs relative to "streambank sloughing", "lowered plant vigor", "reduced vegetative cover", "soil compaction", and "a decline in wildlife habitat quality" p.168, Queen Valley Intro. We take issue with the fact that there is 100-207 "substantial development" in this area. Substantial relative to p.150. Bodie Hills MA. Please detail the locations of the latter three what? Development is substantial relative to the other two 100-199 sensitive plant species in the MA. alternatives but minimal relative to other towns in the region. p.153, Granite Mountain MA. How are population trends "static" for p.168. Sensitive Plants. Please describe the "sensitive native plants" 100-208 100-200 the sensitive plant species listed if populations are being adversely found in this alternative area

p.153, Long Valley MA. Please justify the "demand for more trail

100-209

p.169. Soldier Canyon Intro. Please disclose in the discussion of the affected environment that this alternative encompasses a 2,000+ acre portion of BLM WSA CA-010-060. p.169. Soldier Canyon Intro. While lack of water is indeed "one of the most notable characteristics" of the lnyos, it should be pointed

100-210

out that the study area itself contains several springs (McMurry spring and at least one unnamed spring - see Waucoba Mtn. 15' series USGS quad). The scarcity of riparian areas in these arid mountains makes them especially critical to wildlife, and likely to harbor endemic species (amphibians, insects, plants).

100-211

p.169. Sensitive Plants. Please list the sensitive plant species found in this alternative area. Where, more precisely, are the plant populations found that are "in areas in Soldier Canvon"?

Chapter IV - Impacts

100-212

The analyses of environmental impacts of all alternatives including the proposed action are so general as to be meaningless. While we understand that this is a programatic document, enough smidgeons of reasonably forseeable information are provided throughout the document to warrant more specific analysis of impacts. Also, conclusions are made that are unsubstantiated by data

50

Introduction

impacted ("degraded", according to p.136) by livestock grazing,

p.155, Benton MA. Please add hiking to the list of popular activities

p.159, Owens Valley MA. Please explain the "several factors" that

limit habitat and population numbers for candidate, threatened

p.164, Wild Horse Habitat. Please translate the following: "This

information is a general statement since little monitoring has

occurred to document a more accurate use estimate." What are

p.164, Cultural Resources. For the Pizona Alternative you state:

occurrences of such sites on the Inyo National Forest." Compare

it quite sensitive." Cultural resource sites in the Queen Valley

this with the statement for the Soldier Canyon Alternative (p.171)

that "Over 40 cultural resource sites have been identified ... making

Alternative are not as numerous as in the Pizona Alternative but still this area is classified as "highly sensitive" (p.169). Such

identified...making it an area having one of the most concentrated

Transmission Line Corridors - Affected Environment

"Over 40 known cultural resource sites have been

wildlife and wild horses?

and endangered species in the MA.

riding opportunities"

you trying to say?

in this MA

100-201

100-202

100-203

100-204

100-205

5-325

- p.175. Please detail, as per the requirements of NEPA 40 CFR ISO2.16, 100-213 terreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that result with implementation of each alternative. These should be presented in one section, rather than scattered throughout this chapter, as they may well be (although we could find no discussion of any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources).
- p.175, Impacts to Geothermal Commercial Rower Development
 Opportunities. Please add a statement to this paragraph that "in
 the event that the Secretary reinstates the geothermal leasing
 program, or that pending non-competitive lease applications are
 processed, full environmental enalysis will be completed."
 - 215. Impacts to Sails and Water Quality. You're logic is backwards with repart to considering impacts on these resources. The purpose of the NEPA is to disclose potentially significant impacts to the most impact to the most flow on you make the assumption that there will be no significant impacts to these resources without having gone through the environmental analysis process? Every indication from information disclosed in the document (particularly in the description of the affected environment) is that these resources are currently degraded, primarily by grazing, but also by mining and other activity. It is consetable whether levels of grazing will change but it is undisputed that mining activity will increase before we see a decrease. Therefore, imapcts to these resources should be documented (i.e., these topics should have been addressed as issues of major concern in the RMM/FEIS).
- p.176. Geothermal, Alternatives 1 4. Please reexamine your samples with regard to the world energy situation. An analysis of environmental impacts should be based no potentially significant impacts to the Resource Area, these impacts should not be ignored based on questionable assumptions that supposedly needs the need for gedenate analysis of impacts.
- p.177, Locatable Mineral Exploration and Development, Alternative
 l. Please detail the 14 'major' projects expected with continuation
 represent nanagement policy Please detail the other 2 'super'
 projects anticipated in this alternative. Please provide data which
 supports the conclusions made in this section for all 4 alternatives.
 Additionally, please provide estimates of the duration of these
 'rnajor' and 'super' projects, with data to substantiate your
 conslusions.
 - p.179, Locatable Mineral Exploration and Development, Alternative 3. Please detail the 7 "major" projects for this alternative. Please

detail the 1 "super" project additional to Bodie that is projected.
Please provide data which supports the conclusions made in this
cent.

setion for all 4 alternatives. Additionally, please provide estimates
of the duration of these "major" and "super" projects, with data to
substantiate your constusions.

p180, Locatable Mineral Exploration and Development, Alternative
4. Please detail the 9 or 14 (which is 13") rangior "projects expected
6. Please detail the 9 or 14 (which is 13") rangior "projects expected
1 "super project and the project of this alternative. Please detail the
1 "super project and the supports the conclusions made in this section
of the project of the project of the project of the formation of these "major" and "super" projects, with data to
substantiate your consulsions. If the projection is for 14 "major"
projects please rationalze why, if the preferred alternative is
supposed to be more environmentally acceptable than current
management, the projections are essentially the same for both
alternatives.

p.)96-197, Impacts on Threatened and Endangered Species,
Al-Piese explain what you mean by "protective
management" of sensitive species habitats. Please explain what
you mean by "special management". Please specifically list which
Id populations of which d sensitive animal species would be
these alternatives.

p.198-199, Impacts on Mining, Alternatives I - 4. We request that you provide in the final RMP/EIS the following data to support conclusions made in the environmental analysis of impacts to mining.

Please provide data to substantiate the various percentage conclusions regarding withdrawls, constraints and restrictions on mineral exploration and development.

Please provide data to substantiate the conclusion that there will be a \$\frac{1}{2}\$ billion reduction in "potential additions" to Mono County's tax base if only 50% of the Galactic project may be developed, under Alternatives \$ & 4 (it should be pointed out that Mono County cannot lose money that they never had). Please also provide substantiating data for conclusions in Alternatives 1 & 2 regarding a \$2 billion tax increase. Please also provide data to support the projected number of jobs for all alternatives.

Please provide data to substantiate the conclusions that

5

100-219 cont.

development of "x" number of deposits will not occur. Please provide data to substantiate conclusions re "loss" to Mono County's tax base for Alternatives 3 & 4 (it should be pointed out that Mono County cannot lose money that they never had - the language regarding potential loss of income is prejudicial).

p.200-202, Impacts on Livestock Grazing, Alternatives 1 - 4. We request that you provide in the final RMP/EIS the following data to support conclusions made in the environmental analysis of impacts to livestock grazing

100-220

Please provide data to substantiate that, for Alternatives 3

"The impacts on livestock grazing both regionally and on Bureau land would be highly negative, with direct impacts to 19 permittees"

Please list the 19 permittees for which this is true.

100-221 4:

Please provide data to substantiate that, for Alternatives 3 &

"Economically, the Bridgeport area will be slightly to moderately affected due to the loss of sales of goods and services. Mono County will have a moderate reduction in livestock sales. Invo County livestock sales will be slightly reduced "

Please provide data to substantiate other conclusions made in 100-222 this section for Alternatives 3 & 4, including an overall reduction in carrying capacity, increased operator costs, and operators being forced out of husiness

Please explain why the Bureau addresses "negative impact(s) 100-223 to the permittee" from grazing at Conway Ranch. The Conway Ranch is located on private land. If this is because the potential elimination of grazing at Conway Ranch affects a BLM allotment then this should be explained.

Impact of the East-West Transmission Line Corridor Alternatives

p.206, No Action. You have failed to detail the environmental 100-224 impacts of a "no Action" Alternative, and yet reach a conclusion that environmental impacts of the No Action Alternative would only be "slightly less" than the other alternatives. The environmental impacts of this alternative would be significantly less than other alternatives (i.e. no adverse impacts to the Resource Area).

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RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 100 (Friends of the Inyo)

- 100-1) We appreciate your comment. Some of the standard operating procedures suggested by CDF&G have been adopted in the final plan.
- Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final 100-2) RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

The Bureau's Section 202 WSAs adjoin National Forest lands that were identified as further planning areas. These further planning areas were studied by the Forest Service in the recent Invo National Forest Plan. The wilderness element of the forest plan was appealed. The appeal has not been resolved. The resolution of the appeal will result in a final decision to be implemented by the Forest Service. After resolution of the appeal, the Section 202 WSAs which only qualified for WSA status in conjunction with adjoining National Forest further planning areas will conform with the Forest Service's implementation.

All WSAs are protected from impairment of wilderness values by the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. If the Soldier Canyon area is ultimately designated as a corridor, the WSA status would be incorporated in any environmental analysis. Utility line construction would be prohibited in the WSA.

- 100-3) Decisions related to habitat improvement for harvest species are also expected the improve habitat conditions for many non-game species.
- 100-4) A region-wide impact analysis was used since specific project proposals (uses) are unknown concerning their impact on listed species habitats. Analysis at a more specific level would involve a large amount of speculation on our part.

A support need for spotted owl surveys in the Coleville management area has been added to the final plan.

- 100-5) Please refer to response 93-3.
- 100-6) Corrections have been made to Appendix 6, draft RMP, for animal species listed by the State of California as threatened or endangered. The Bureau does not have a policy which recognizes California species that are candidates for listing as endangered, threatened or rare species nor for California species of special concern. Species which fall into California candidate or special concern status could potentially be added to the Bureau's statewide sensitive species list upon petition to the State Director in California.

The *60+ sensitive species* mentioned on p.196, draft RMP, involved other plants or animals occurring on adjacent national forest or private land. They will not be listed in this document.

State listed species are now shown in Appendix 6. State sensitive species and species of special concern will not be shown in the document.

- 100-7) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 100-8) In our opinion, our current discussion of impacts on a regional basis to the listed, candidate and species of management concern habitats meets the requirement of NEPA.

An expanded discussion on federal candidate species has been provided in the final document, Please see response 93-3.

- 100-9) The pine marten, Nelson bighorn, goshawk and prairie falcon are recognized as species of management concern (see p.12s, draft RMP). The golden eagle is automatically afforded management concern due to its inclusion within United States Code, Title 16, Subchapiter II Protection of Bald and Golden Eagles, pp.713-715. The other species listed are not afforded special recognition by this agency. Please refer to response 100-6 for additional action which could potentially be taken on the other species mentioned in your comment.
- 100-10) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

100-11) Sensitive plant information can be found on pp.148, 151, and 153 of the draft RMP, but was accidentally omitted from four management area descriptions. These data have been added to Chapter 3 of the final RMP.

There are 16 species; <u>Arabis bodiensis</u> (C2) was recently added to the USFWS candidate list and was accidentally omitted from the Appendix 6 list.

The management area alternatives did not have decisions for sensitive plants because these decisions were under the Area-Wide Alternatives. The Alternative 4 decision for sensitive species is on p.50 of the draft. The standard operating procedures on p.269 specifically mention sensitive plant habitat under I.C.1. and sensitive plant habitat has been added to I.B.1 and I.B.3.

Eleven out of the stateen sensitive plant species are currently being monitored. The populations of the remaining five species are currently being inventoried. Protection and enhancement of the populations will generally be handled within CRMPs, AMPs, and ACECs. Management of species outside of these types of management plans will be site-specific and will provide protection and/or enhancement of the habitat.

See response 92-4.

100-12,13,14) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).

100-15) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

100-16) See response 92-51.

100-17,18) Please see the "grazing" general response.

100-19) The 1988 Aspen Survey did show a downward trend in 75% of the groves listed in good-excellent condition in 1980. This trend is attributed to both livestock use and climatic conditions and does not reflect overall vegetative conditions within in the Resource Area. Aspen groves receive a disproportionate amount of use due to the availability of shade, water and palatable forage. Groves receiving unacceptable levels of livestock use have been identified and will be improved through AMPs, HMPs and range projects.

Please see the "Grazing" general response.

- 100-20) Please see response 100-11, the "Grazing" general response, and the "Grazing" section of Chapter 4.
- 100-21) These maps were printed in the grazing EISs and were considered for the draft RMP, but it was determined that an allotment map would not contribute significantly to the RMP analysis.
- 100-22) See response 51-3.
- 100-23) Please see response 55-14.
- 100-24) The minerals sections of the final have been rewritten to clarify this. The term "effective withdrawal" has been removed.
- 100-25) See general response for minerals, item 4. Your comments regarding specific areas of withdrawal have been noted.
- 100-26) Your comments are noted.

100-27

- to 100-30) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 100-31) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9),
- 100-32) Under the proposed action, the numerous prescribed resource standards such as yearlong/seasonal protection, visual resource management, desired plant community objectives, etc. would

- direct any proposed recreation program developments. Please see response 92-38.
- 100-33) We would not promote or encourage recreation developments in WSAs until they have completed the wilderness review process and been designated as nonsuitable for wilderness.

The proposed route connectors and primitive recreation trails have been deleted in the final RMP. Any new routes or trails would be reconsidered in future activity plans such as those your letter mentioned.

- 100-34) We believe that the Bodie Hills Coordinated Management (CRM) process is a logical place to coordinate vehicle use designations for the Bodie Hills. The groups that serve as the steering committee and technical review team represent a cross-spectrum of public land users. All forthcoming plans and environmental analyses will conform to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Public involvement opportunities for individuals outside the CRM process will be available.
- 100-35) The vehicle use section of Chapter 3 in the draft RMP provided a brief discussion of the ongoing vehicle use designation studies. This section has been expanded slightly in the final.
- 100-36) Your support for designation of all potential ACECs has been noted. The results of the impact analysis indicated that most of the resource values within the proposed Bodie Mountain ACEC would receive improved management and protection as the result of other decisions in Atherantive 4, including yearlong protection of riparian, meadow, and aspen habitats; DPC goals; interim management of potential Wild and Scenic Rivers; and VRM classifications. Wilderness values receive protection from existing "IMP Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review." We feet these decisions can stand on their own without ACEC designation. An exception was in the Bodie Bowl portion of this proposed ACEC where historic values are a primary concern. As a result, only the Bodie Bowl was proposed for ACEC designation to provide the recognition and protection this rationally significant area deserves.

- 100-37) We have reevaluated Mill Creek and determined that it qualifies as eligible for Wild and Scenic River study. The final RMP reflects this change.
- 100-38) Please contact the Bishop RA for exact locations of these stands.
- 100-39,40,41) See the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 100-42) The draft RMP does not assume that there are no human health risks associated with EMF. See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study.

This study did not consider the environmental effects of corridor use to the east of the Inyo National Forest boundary. Any potential effects of human exposure to EMF caused by an eastward extension of a corridor through the Soldier Carryon area would need to be specifically evaluated either in response to a project proposal, or as part of a transmission line corridor study conducted by the appropriate BLM jurisdictional units responsible for administration of the lands considered.

100-43) The environmental impacts between the three east-west alternative corridor areas have been better documented in the final RMP to better display the differences in impacts between them.

See also the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas sections of the general response for the corridor study.

- 100-44) See the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas sections of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-45) See response 51-1.
- 100-46) See the general response to comments on the corridor study.

100-47) In addition to the 2,000 acres currently withdrawn, the following additional acreages are proposed for withdrawal under the alternatives: Alternative 1 - 30,000 acres, Alternative 2 - 0 acres, Alternative 3 - 30,000 acres, Alternative 4 - 1,900 acres. This range has proven sufficient to determine where withdrawals should be attempted. The actual withdrawal process is separate from the RMP and will include public input.

See the general response for watershed withdrawals.

- 100-48) See general response for grazing.
- 100-49) The general nature of your comment makes it difficult to respond. However, the impact analyses for livestock grazing, minerals, and the corridor study have been substantively revised. Other revisions to impacts are summarized in Chapter 4.
- 100-49A) See the "Need Analysis" section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-50) During the planning process and in response to public comments the preferred alternative has been changed to reduce impacts in accordance with the full text of the regulation you cite. In most cases, more detailed mitigation will be developed via site-specific environmental analyses conducted before implementation.
- 100-51) See the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-52,53) Please refer to DPC general statement.
- 100-54) See the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-55) Please refer to response 100-8.
- 100-56) See response 51-1.

100-57) The Benton-Owens Valley MFP was amended on 9/14/89 to include the 'Airport Amendment' which is summarized in either the first or second decision in each of the alternatives for the Long Valley Management Area. Other 'updates' were simply maintenance that reflected minor changes in data, etc.

See response to comment 92-6 for a discussion of the "sixteen major proposals."

- 100-58) The statement simply reflects general economic impacts that would occur when scenic resources are protected.
- 100-59) Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is already defined in the Glossary (p.226, draft). Habitat Management Plans are normally identified for fish, wildlife, and plant species or habitats that have been identified (through an RMP) as having special significance for management.
- 100-60) Unlike the 1977 plan, the RMP will serve as the foundation for legally enforceable and binding route designations. The RMP prescribes general vehicle use designations as a framework for the upcoming and ongoing activity plans. We have closely directed our efforts in the activity planning process to assure all plans conform and complement each other. The activity plan process will identify implementation techniques such as the ongoing High Desert and Interagency OHV Studies are currently doing. Please see general response to comments on OHV management at the beginning of this chapter for further information.
- 100-61) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 100-62,63,64) Please refer to response 92-5.
- 100-65) See response 100-57.
- 100-65A) "Valid Existing Management" (Chapter 1, final RMP) gives a complete summary.

- 100-66) This portion of the document has been modified to identify parameters for application of visual resource management standards. Please refer to the Standard Operating Procedures in Chapter 1 of the final RMP for further information. Additionally, it is our intent to apply the VRM standards to all surface disturbing activities for conformance. Unlike other land use plans, this RMP will apply VRM as a resource condition standard.
- 100-67) Our reason for not including soil and water resources in the RMP are provided in the opening paragraph of Determinations That Will Not be Made in This Plan (p.27, draft) and in #3, pp.27 and 28. Standard operating procedures concerning soil conditions and water quality have been added in the final plan.
- 100-68) Your suggestions have been incorporated into the final.
- 100-69) See response 92-8K, and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-70) Please see response 100-2.
- 100-71) The Forest Service must issue a separate Record of Decision for the transmission line corridor portion of the RMP affecting National Forest System lands. The BLM is neither responsible for, nor has the authority to make, transmission line use and occupancy decisions affecting lands administered by the Forest Service.

Forest Service participation with the BLM in this study was conducted in accordance with management direction provided on pp.211 and 232 of the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988).

- 100-72) Please see response 100-33.
- 100-73) Please refer to the DPC general statement.

- 100-74) This acreage in Alternative I includes the Alabama Hills and the BLM campgrounds, areas of low mineral potential. These areas do not need a mineral withdrawal. See the discussion of mineral withdrawals in the general minerals response.
- 100-75) Please see the "Grazing" general response.
- 100-76) Transmission line construction through WSA CA-010-060B will be contingent upon Congressional release of the lands within it to multiple use management. Concerning WSA's located outside the study area see response 100-70. See also response 39-2.

All of that portion of the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area located within the Inyo National Forest has been prescribed as a Multiple Resource Area (Management Prescription #18) in the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1988).

See also the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.

- 100-77) A right-of-way under title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act would be required for groundwater pumping on public land. BLM can refuse to grant a right-of-way where the impacts are unacceptable or where the proposal does not conform to the land use plan.
- 100-78) Please see response 100-32.
- 100-79) The final RMP has been modified to restrict only camping use around sage grouse leks. Vehicle use restrictions will be addressed at the activity plan level. Your additional comments have been noted and considered.
- 100-80) The area-wide Alternative 4 decisions provide for yearlong protection of candidate and listed plant and animal habitat and sensitive species plant habitat (p.50, draft). Other decisions concerning seasonal/yearlong protection are in separate management areas for Alternative 4.

On p.26 (draft), #14, it is stated that we will comply with the Endangered Species Act.

100-81) Riparian vegetation will not be managed with buffer areas. DPC descriptions and standard operating procedures in the final plan should adequately protect this vegetation type.

The soil alteration rating assesses the extent of bank modification and instability resulting from natural and artificial forces.

The bank protection rating assesses the quality of protection from erosive forces provided by vegetation growing on the streambank.

The above terms will not be placed in the glossary but are available as part of the public record.

100-82) Only 11% of the public land in the Bishop RA is in poor ecological condition. See grazing general response,

The decision concerning the 60% use level has been changed. See the Area-Wide decisions in Chapter 2.

- 100-83) Applications for livestock grazing can be made for areas outside existing allotments. An RMP decision that prohibits grazing these areas allows for rejection of the application without further consideration.
- 100-84) Please see responses 100-34 and 100-35.
- 100-85) See response 91-6.
- 100-86) These withdrawals include Horton Creek, Goodale Creek, and Tuttle Creek Campgrounds, the Pat Keyes trail, the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC, and other areas to protect wildlife, recreation, and historic values. An additional 28,000 acres may be withdrawn if Congress approves the Southern Inyo Wilderness.

- 100-87) We anticipate that opportunities for increased funding in recreation will facilitate both resource management and environmental education programs. Please see the Funding section of Chapter 1 in the final RMP for further information.
- 100-88) The final decision is supported by an adequate rationale in the final RMP
- 100-89) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 100-90) The Slinkard ACEC has been expanded in the final to include most of the management area west of U.S. Highway 395.
- 100-91,92) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 100-93) This decision has been removed from the final.
- 100-94) The decision for the Coleville MA has been changed. Dry Carryon and Slinkard Valley allotments will continue to be grazed until an alternative grazing area can be found. Management will conform to ACEC goals and requirements for candidate species habitat.
- 100-95) Please see response 79-7.
- 100-96) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 100-97) We believe our area-wide Alternative 4 decision to maintain 95% of the previous 10 year mean monthly flow, or 95% of the existing flow, whichever is greater, will prevent significant impacts to natural resources.
- 100-98) The upcoming activity plan would identify those recreation uses and developments that are compatible with the RMP's long term prescriptions for the Slinkard ACEC.
 - Please see response 45-10 for further information.
- 100-99) We appreciate your concern with the Conway Summit ACEC.

- 100-100,104) Please see response 93-25. The Conway Summit ACEC totals approximately 2700 acres.
- 100-101) Thank you; your comment has been noted and documented.
- 100-102) The wording has been changed to 'candidate species habitat'. The species in question is the Travertine band-thigh diving heetle
- 100-103) The Green Creek AMP was identified under the grazing EIS and the MFP.
- 100-105) A geothermal leasing withdrawal is proposed for the Travertine Hot Springs area as part of the ACEC (see Bridgeport Valley Management Area, Alternative 4). The geothermal source associated with these springs is currently under lease, the development of which will not be affected by proposed leasing withdrawals.
- 100-106) If these 'old growth trees' are found to be on Bureau lands, an inventory of the site would be necessary before any special consideration could be given.
- 100-107) Thank you for your support of these withdrawals.
- 100-108) Thank you for your support.
- 100-109) We appreciate your concern with stream restoration. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 100-109A) Implementation will be addressed as part of the upcoming Bodie Hills off-highway vehicle designation process. With the Bodie Hills CRM technical review team, we will identify measures including signing, law enforcement, education, etc. Please also see the general response for OHY management.
- 100-110) The primary benefits to wildlife habitat in the area will result from the decision to eliminate grazing on the Copper Mountain Allotment. ACEC designation was not required to carry this decision forward into the proposed action.

- 100-111) Please see response 100-33.
- 100-112) We consider final plan decisions regarding goals of desired plant communities, yearlong protection of streams (riparian areas), and SOPs for soil and water adequate to protect water quality.
- 100-113) We believe that BLM has the responsibility to impose environmental restrictions to protect important resources. This is what we are attempting to do. See general Bodie response for an explanation of the entire situation.
- 100-114) Thank you for your comment. The activity plan process is the most appropriate context for input regarding road reroutes.
- 100-115) These are separate standards and guidelines which would be established after completion of the RMP. We are redefining what is unnecessary and undue to reflect a resource viewpoint.
- 100-116) Mining activities within the WSAs are already guided by CFR 3802.
- 100-117) Our intent is to provide guidelines for management of the area. Decisions on actual proposed projects will be dependent upon the BLM manager. See general Bodie response which addresses these concerns.
- 100-118,119) Under the proposed action, the numerous prescribed resource standards such as yearlong/seasonal protection, visual resource management, desired plant community objectives, etc. would direct any proposed recreation program developments.
- 100-120,121,122) Thank you for your comments.
- 100-123) The decadent vegetation is in Trench Canyon. Herbicides would not be used. Burning is the preferred method of vegetation removal in this area.

- 100-124) Please see response 90-2.
- 100-125) These maps were printed in the grazing EISs and were considered for the draft RMP, but it was determined that an allotment map would not contribute significantly to the RMP analysis.

The Larkin Lake allotment is located NE of Trench Canyon in Mono Sand Flat and has 320 acres of public land. The removal of grazing in this area was identified in the Bodie-Coleville grazing ElS and the Management Framework Plan (MFP). The final FMP directs that grazing will be authorized at Larkin Lake only to maintain waterfow! habitat.

- 100-126) Thank you for your support for Dry Creek.
- 100-127) A scenic easement is defined as follows: a partial interest in real property that limits the use of that property so as to protect scenic values,
- 100-128) We appreciate your comment.
- 100-129) The Interagency Off-Highway Vehicle Study has tentatively prescribed vehicle route designations and subsequent management that would accomplish these objectives in the Granite Mountain Management Area.
- 100-130) Your comment has been noted and considered. Please see response 90-2.
- 100-131) Thank you; your comment has been noted and documented.
- 100-132) We appreciate your comment.
- 100-133) Our recreation prescription for the management area is designed to promote dispersed recreation opportunities with few recreational developments.

- 100-134,135) Please see responses 92-38 and 100-32. The impact statement has been modified in the final RMP to be consistent with the RMP recreation prescriptions.
- 100-136) Thank you. Your comment has been noted and documented.
- 100-137) See the general response for geothermal (p.5-15).
- 100-138) Designations for the south Volcanic Tableland were made in the Interagency High Desert Off-Highway Vehicle Plan. The plan calls for certain road closures in this area which enhance semi-primitive non-motorized opportunities. To the south of the Casa Diablo Road, the plan calls for the evaluation of one proposed new single track route. This decision was made with the concurrence of the citizens' technical review team prior to initiation of the RMP. A separate site specific environmental assessment would be required. Please see Chapter 2 (Benton Management Area Rationale) of the final RMP for further information.
- 100-139) Your support for our proposals to protect critical plant and animal habitats in the Fish Slough area has been noted. These proposals remain as decisions in the proposed action.
- 100-140) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 100-141) This was considered. We have neither the funds nor manpower to do so and the situation is not likely to change.
- 100-142) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 100-143) We are currently developing environmental educational materials with the county to be used in a classroom setting. Please see response 100-87.
- 100-144) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 100-145) Please see response 100-2.

- 100-146) In the Bishop Resource Area, bristlecone pine are found only within the proposed boundary of the Keynot Peak ACEC. As a result, campfires will be prohibited in all bristlecone pine forests in the resource area. Your thoughts on priority will be considered when we begin our efforts to develop management plans for individual ACECs.
- 100-147) We appreciate your comment.
- 100-148) Water development in the Inyo Mountains would involve only installation of artificial water collection systems for rain water or snowmelt in a very localized area and would not occur to the detriment to any species of management concern.
- 100-149) Your comments have been noted on withdrawing minerals to protect recreation values. The withdrawal action, however, only affects the staking and recordation of new claims. Existing claimants have grandfather rights to patent and a right to development to the same manner and degree as on lands not withdrawn from mineral entry.

There are ways to protect wildlife and wild plant habitat other than through a withdrawal. Site-specific stipulation, mitigation and compliance inspection can adequately protect these resources and at the same time permit exploration and development of mineral deposits.

- 100-150) We agree. We will look at the overall management situation for the area when it is designated wilderness.
- 100-151) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 100-152) The term is 'riparian comparison area.' A riparian comparison area, in this instance, provides a site on Ash Creek which has been totally excluded from any consumptive use of the vegetation since August, 1983. The results of this exclusion are available for comparison to other streamside vegetation in the Owens Valley.

- 100-153) We believe that an additional transmission line within the same scale of existing lines would have little additional visual impact. Nonetheless, any future transmission line project would undergo a site-specific environmental analysis in which visual impacts would be closely evaluated. Your support for a VRIM Class II has been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 100-154) Utility companies have indicated that the demand for more electricity to meet projected population growth in southern California will most probably be met by new generation sources located in Nevada and Utah. A new east-west corridor in this part of the State would most likely be used to transmit electricity from central and north-central Nevada generation sources to southern California. However, neither the BLM nor the Forest Service has yet received a project proposal that identifies a specific source of power generation. When a proposal is submitted, it will be evaluated in a separate EIS that will consider the impacts of its entire alignment, from the source of generation to the point at which the electricity is distributed and used.
- 100-155) The beneficiaries of system reliability could potentially be any electrical customer in the western U.S. grid system, including residents of the eastern Siera. Use of federal lands for large transmission lines must be justified in terms of the need for such a use on federal lands, and how the public's best interest is served in authorizing that use. In making that determination, land management agencies must consider the public at large (federal lands are owned by all the public), not only the residents of a particular area.
- 100-156) Based upon current resource inventories and values of the Soldier Carryon area, none of the estimated impacts of transmission lines through the Soldier Carryon area are considered to be unacceptable. See also the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-157) Only a very small portion (approximately 600 acres) of the northeast corner of the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor

Area includes lands within an area proposed as a possible bighorn sheep reintroduction site. See the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas sections of the general response for the corridor study.

- 100-158) The Affected Environment section has been rewritten to more accurately reflect the known occurrence of and estimated impacts to cultural resources in each of the east-west alternative corridor areas.
- 100-159) Impacts to wildlife are professional judgments based upon the known occurrence and range of wildlife species in each of the east-west alternative areas. Site-specific wildlife studies will be completed upon receipt of the first application for a right-of-way through the Soldier Canyon area to more specifically determine wildlife habitat and use of the area, impacts to wildlife resources, and measures that could be implemented to mitigate those impacts.
- 100-160) See the Impacts of Comidor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 100-161) This should have referred to Table S-2 (pages 12-15, draft).
- 100-162) Many changes have been made in this table, some in response to your comments.
- 100-163) The Golden Gate Mine is in the Coleville Planning Area. We agree that mineral potential maps are needed. These are provided in the final RMP.
- 100-164) The last sentence for the summary statement (wildlife, Alternative 4) on p.93 of the draft should have read: "Loss of up to 18% (9 acres) of riparian vegetation possible over 20 years, would be partially offset by riparian quality improvement on 8 acres." There is no diversion planned or proposed to this office. Should a proposal for water diversion be offered our intent would be to prevent any damage or loss to riparian vegetation. Also see the area-wide decision regarding "no net loss."

- 100-165) The minerals sections of the final have been rewritten to clarify this. The term 'effective withdrawal' has been removed. These figures were developed prior to completion of the GIS analysis. They have been corrected in the final, and a basis given for the figures.
- 100-166) Private lands are not bound by VRM restrictions on adjacent
- 100-167) The species are Travertine band-thigh diving beetle, Sierra Nevada red fox, California wolverine and Mono buckwheat.
- 100-168) See response 100-165.
- 100-169) Numerous factors are considered in determining impacts: estimated summer deer density, sage grouse density, trout standing crop, potential response of wildlife populations to the various decisions in Alternative 4.
- 100-170) The draft RIMP on p.136 identifies the Potato Peak area as likely to experience exploration and development. In the past there has been some exploration in the area and it is believed that development potential exists.
- 100-171) This was another error whereby impacts were not properly carried forward to the table.
- 100-172) This has been changed. There is no such thing as 'effectively withdrawn.' An area is either open or closed to mineral entry. See general Bodie response for evolanation.
- 100-173) Chemical spraying is not proposed in the final.
- 100-174) Please refer to response 100-169.
- 100-175) The proposed three mile buffer zone around the Mono Basin National Scenic Area prohibiting geothermal and salable mineral development was dropped from Alternative 3. Its discussion in the Alternative 4 rationales of the draft RMP is in error, and corrections have been made.

- 100-176) The emphasis in terms of overall management was different for Alternatives 1 & 2 when compared to Alternatives 3 & 4. The latter alternatives focused on proactive management for a large area of the Volcanic Tableland, including Fish Slough. The former alternatives, under more reactive or custodial management, focused on Fish Slough as a geographically smaller, more manageable area.
- 100-177) The springs are located in the general vicinity of Little Alkali Lake. Two species of management concern (Owens speckled dace and Great Basin springsnail) could potentially be affected at 1 spring.
- 100-178) <u>Astraçalus johnannis howellii</u> and <u>Astraçalus monoensis</u> occur on 30% of the public land in the Long Valley MA. It is possible that locatable mineral development would destroy some individual plants within these populations. If mitigation would not prohibit adverse impacts, then consultation with USFWS and CDF&G would be required.

Recreational development will be pursued so as not to adversely impact sensitive species.

- 100-179) See the general response for minerals, items 2 and 6.
- 100-180) The Owens speckled dace, Owens pupifish and Owens tul chub would be placed in new refugia on Bureau land. Habitat or population(s) for Townsend big eared bat, Mt. Lyell salamander, Great Basin springsnail, Owens speckled dace, and the plant, July qold could be negatively affected.
- 100-181) Owens tui chub and Owens pupfish.
- 100-182) The comparison of the environmental impacts of the east-west alternative corridor areas considered can be found in Table S-2 (pages 12-15) and in Chapter 4 (pages 206-210), draft BMP. These sections have been rewritten.
- 100-183) We have modified the sentence to be more definitive in Appendix 6 of the final RMP.

- 100-184) We have added hiking to the list of recreational activities in the resource area for the final RMP. Please see Chapter 3 for further information.
- 100-185) Please refer to response 93-3. Candidate animal species lacking complete inventories are the Owens sand dune snout beetle, Travertine band-thigh diving beetle, Owens Valley California vole and Pacific western bio-eared bat.
- 100-186) Condition of streams is determined from a large set of physical stream measurements found in our methodology for intensive stream monitoring (part of the public record).

Stream data from both time periods were compared to delineate where change in condition had occurred on a particular stream. The current condition of total stream miles in the resource area is given on p.129, draft RMP.

Stream restoration is still needed in many of those areas found in poor-fair condition in 1978.

- 100-187) Bodie Creek water quality data were collected in 1984 and 1985. Past mining activity was the cause for these elements being present. In 1990 a hazardous materials contractor conducted tests to determine whether a contamination problem exists and what action, if any, is needed. The report is due to be completed later this year.
- 100-188) Sediment pollution (caused by upstream erosion, in our opinion) will be reduced through implementation of our DPC and related decisions. Also refer to response 51-6.
- 100-189) See table 3-1, final RMP.
- 100-190) Please see response 100-19.
- 100-191) Please refer to p.134 of the draft RMP (Riparian) for the answer to your question.
- 100-192) See response 100-11.

- 100-193) Your comment has been noted and documented.
- 100-194) Please see response 100-163.
- 100-195) The withdrawal revisions we are proposing apply only to BLM lands in the Bishop Resource Area - we are not proposing that any National Forest Lands be included.
- 100-196) Please see the "Grazing" general response in Chapter 5.
- 100-197) Please refer to response 100-167.
- 100-198) The Dog Creek AMP was written in 1989 and was based on correcting problems associated with riparian and aspen groves. Two grazing seasons is not enough time to produce significant improvements. The management in Green Creek was changed in 1986 to improve livestock distribution. An AMP will be written for Green Creek which will fine tune the existing management and address riparian areas and aspen groves.
- 100-199) The exact locations of these species are mapped and are available for public review in the Bishop Area Office. In general, these species are located near Mormon Meadow, Dry Lakes Plateau dirt road, 4-way intersection of Masonic/Geiger Grade/Half Way Camp/Aurora roads, Bodie road east of town, and Bridgeport Reservoir.
- 100-200) The impact is from animals actually grazing the plants and/or trampling. The degradation of sensitive species habitat by grazing cited on p.136 does not apply to all sixteen sensitive species and does not mean that species populations are being lost. The BLM will continue to mitigate these impacts, mainly through improved livestock management and exclosures. There appear to be no changes in the populations as a result of these impacts.

There are two mistakes in the description on p.153. The adverse impact is from road maintenance, not livestock grazing. The impact was the loss of a population of Eriogonum ampullaceum located along a road in Adobe Valley. The road was accidentally graded. The population was considered to be lost, but in 1990 individual plants were found within the same graded area. It appears that the population will recover. Wild horses are not impacting Calochortus excavatus or Eriogonum ampullaceum.

- 100-201) Wildemess restrictions, local use patterns, professional judgement, and recent surveys of mountain biker preferences contributed to the demand observation for trail riding opportunities. The upcoming recreation activity plan would evaluate this need further.
- 100-202) Hiking has been added to the list in Appendix 6 of the final RMP.
- 100-203) The "several factors" are, generally, the result of natural circumstances for the habitats the species occupy. The two exceptions are the Owens speckled dace and O. pupfish which have been greatly diminished in occupied habitat due to water diversion, exotic fish introductions, etc.
- 100-204) The statement is based upon annual observations of wild horse use by agency personnel, and not supported by scientific monitoring methods.
- 100-205) See response 100-158.
- 100-206) The Queen Valley Alternative Corridor Area does not encompass any portion of WSA CA-010-075.
- 100-207) The description of the Queen Valley area has been rewritten.
- 100-208) Isolated populations of <u>Eriogonum ampullaceum</u> are scattered throughout Benton Valley and are mentioned due to proximity.
- 100-209) See response 39-2.

- 100-210) The occurrence of a few small springs in the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area has been noted in the final document.
- 100-211) The species of known sensitive plants that occur within each alternative corridor area are cited in the final RMP.
- 100-212) Major portions of the impact analysis have been revised to increase its specificity. See Chapter 4.
- 100-213) The planning team decided not to describe irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources in a special section. Rather, it was decided to consider that and related topics (unavoidable adverse impacts and the relationship between short-term use and long-term productivity) during the impact analysis and describe them as appropriate throughout the analysis. Because a resource management plan provides a framework for future management (rather than determining specific on-the-ground actions) and because it can be amended fairly easily, such plans generally do not involve irreversible commitments of resources.
- 100-214) If future energy disruptions result in renewed interest in geothermal leasing and economic incentives, the plan would be amended to accommodate development and leasing. Any plan amendment would be accompanied by full NEPA documentation.
- 100-215) We share your concern for soils and water quality. However, there were no techniques available to us to analyze these impacts in a way that would help with alternative selection. Potential impacts to these resources would be mitigated by Standard Operating Procedures and Best Management Practices.
- 100-216) Please see general response for geothermal.
- 100-217) Please see response 55-14.

- 100-218) "Protective management" generally refers to yearlong and seasonal protection decisions. Examples of "special management" would include DPC management and similar activities. The species/populations affected would be: Owens speckled dace, 2 populations; Inyo Mountains slender salamander, 1 population; Owens sand dune snout beetle, 1 population: Pacific western bio-eared bat. 10 populations.
- 100-219) Please see responses 54-4 and 55-18.
- 100-220,221,222) See the "Grazing" section of Chapter 4, final RMP.
- 100-223) The reference to the Conway Ranch was made to support the idea that permittees have operations that extend over numerous legal boundaries and that are directly affected when management within a legal boundary is substantially changed.

The Corway Ranch meadow is a high production forage area grazed by this permittee and is used in conjunction with two adjacent BLM allotments. The area provides forage from early summer to fall and is also used as a base for the operation during the summer months. Loss of this area, although private land, would be a substantial neeative impact to this operator.

100-224) See response 91-14. Without a specific proposal that identifies the source of electrical generation, and specifically identified alternative routes if transmission lines were not allowed into the Owens Valley, the impact analysis of the No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative must be addressed in ceneral terms, as it is in the draft RMP.

01/16/91

Robert J. Miller 1858 Durillo Ct. Fremont, Ca.94539 (415) 656-2480 FAX: (488) 733-3376

Mr. Michael A.Ferguson, Area Manager United States Department of the Interior Burcau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514-2498

Subject: Comments " Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and E.I.S "

Dear Mr. Ferguson

I wish to thank you for the PAX reply, by Mr. Holden Brink to by Certified letter. It confirmed my lapression that transcripts are not taken at BLM public meetings for the benefit of Citizens not able to attend. The term "they but the exchange of ideas and divergent thoughts are very such a part of our Great Democracy and transcripts should be made.

In the capacity of a CRO of a Mining Corporation, a copartner and an individual property owner in "THE BODIE BOWL" I have, mucked, blasted, and timbered over 1500 feet of tunnel as" The Prudent Miner" the past 20 years and consider myself and my endeavors part of History of Bodie. I respectfully submit the following comments.

 There seems to be a total lack of concern for Mining and Grazing interests as there is not one person in your List of Preparers come from the Private Sector, an omission that I hope will be corrected.

 I Question the BLM's documentation leading to the justification for BLM designating THE BODIE BOWL a ACEC.

| 3. Your Alternative 1.2.3.4 4 Definitions for the Bodie | 10-1 | Bodie are in direct controversy with certain statutes in The Mining Laws of 1856, 1872, and The Federal Land Policy | Management of 1976, of which most of 1856 are laws are still | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 | 10-1 |

4. I personally have a great deal of my labor, time and money invested in Bodie, California and the BLM Draft of "Recreational Redundancy" is almost to the point of being ludicrous. Page 2

Robert J. Miller 1850 Durillo Ct. Fremont, Ca. 94539 (415) 656-2400 FAX (498) 733-3376

101-2

b The action that are proposed by the BLM may adversely have consequence on me, as an individual, a co-partner and my Corporate interests, and Legal action to protect my rights will be pursued if damaged; under the following. Bevery Person (this includes every government official) who under control of the control of the

Yours, truly

Robert J. Miller

Copy:District Manager/BLM wr/rjm

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 101 (Robert J. Miller)

- 101-1) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5). It addresses your concerns.
- 101-2) The RMP may be protested to both the State Director and to the Secretary of Interior. Any decisions related to plans of operation for mining activity may be appealed through the State Director and the Interior Board of Land Appeals. If a decision related to a plan of operations is damaging to an operator, the authorized officer is not subject to criminal nor civil penalties unless he does so to further personal ends not in the public interest.

GREG FIRMAN 1381 CHAMBERS DR. BAN JOSE, CA. 95118

U.S. DEPT, OF INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGMENT BISHOP RESORCE AREA 757 N. HAIN ST., SUITE P BISHOP, CA. 93514

ATTN: MICHAEL FERGUSON, AREA MANAGER.

RE: RMP AND EIS FOR THE DISHOP RESOURCE AREA, BODIE HILLS MINERAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE BRAFT PLAN BOOKLET AND ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION, I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE BOOTE HILLS AREA AS I HAVE SEVERAL HINING CLAIMS ADJACENT TO THE STATE PARK. I HAVE SPENT A GREAT DEM. OF TIME STUDYING THIS AREA BOTH PHYSICALLY AND HISTORICALLY AND I AM COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THE MOST OBVIOUS OF FACTS. THE PROPOSED HAVE SELEX TO PROTECT OBJECT HILLS AND BODIE STATE PARK PROM HINING, IF IT WAS NOT FOR HINING THERE WOULD BE HOTHING TO PROTECT. THIS SHYINE AREA IS OF INTEREST ONLY SECAUSE OF THE EXTENSIVE HINING THAT WAS DONE HERE IN THE PAST. THERE IS VERY LITTLE SLESS HERE THAT WOULD ATTRACT ANY VISITORS.

TO SAY THAT THIS AREA IS SPECIAL AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED IS
RIDICULOUS AND I DOUBT IF ANY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN PREPARING
THIS REPORT HAVE SPENT ANY SIGNIFICANT TIME STAYING IN THIS AREA.
THE ONLY THING WORTH SAVING IN THIS AREA IS THE TOWN OF BODIE AND
IT IS PRESERVED AS A STATE PARK, AND I MIGHT AND THAT THE PRODIE
TOWN SIGHT WAS DOMATED BY MR.CAIN TO THE STATE WITH THE PRODIE
THAT THINDS WOLLD CONTINUE IN AND ASCUND THE TOWN SIGHT. NOWE OF

THE PROPOSE NIMING WOULD DAMAGE ANY PARK PROPERTY OR INTERFERE WITH ITS OPERATIONS. ACTUALLY IT WOULD PROBABLY BE AN ADDED ATTRACTION TO VISITORS TO SEE HOW KINING WAS DONE IN THE PAST AS COMPARED TO A MODERN OPERATION. I FEEL THAT REMEWED MINING IN THE BOBIE HILLS OF THE SIZE AND SCOPE AS PROPOSED BY GALACTIC, I.E. BODIE COMSCILDATED MINING, WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT ALL LOCALE CITY AND COUNTY ECONOMIES.

THE PROPOSED ACCC FOR BODIE HILLS TOTALLY DISREGARD THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF LAND OWNERS AND CONFLICTS WITH MINING STATUTES THAT CAN ONLY BE CHANGED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

I MAVE SPENT A LOT OF PERSONAL TIME, EFFORT AND MONEY DEVELOPING THESE CLAIMS AND I FEAR THAT YOUR CURRENT RAP OR ITS ALTERNATIVES WILL ERABLICATE ALL OF NY CLAIMS AND WORK. IF THIS MAPPENS I WILL SEEK FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL OF NY LOSSES PLUS DAMAGES, I WILL DITHIS THRU A CLASS ACTION SUIT FILED WITH ALL OTHER CLAIM CHARGE THAT CARE TO PARTICIPATE.

102.-1

THE FOLLOWING SIGNATURES ARE OTHER CLAIM OWNERS THAT HAVE READ THIS LETTER AND AGREE WITH ITS CONTENT.

SINCERLY,

Log fine

OREG FIRMAN

GEORGE S. FIRMAN ALONA STEMMAN
ROBERT J. MILLER COLL J. Mill
H. STEVE HOLHBERG J. L. HOMMAN

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 102 (Greg Firman)

102-1) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5), and response 29-8. These address your concerns. Nr. Nike Ferguson Bureau of Land Management Area Manager Bishop Ca.

I am responding to your request for public comments on the Bureau of Land Management's draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Envisonmental Impact Statement for the eastern Sierra (DEIR)

I have comments on two substantive issues and one policy issues

I led computed to prefece my comments with a presonal observation, of the servicing and commenting on degen of environmental documents I thought that I had seen the entire spectum from good to bad, floweres, I was sadily satisfactor. This document ISAB - CA - CS - 90 - 901 - 1601 to the most grievous example of geather than the comment of the service seen and the service services are serviced to the services are serviced to the services are serviced to the services of t

Please keep me informed as to the progress of this document and the Plan.

Comments to follow on page 2.

Sincerely,

Physical Maria

Robert W. Harris

2231 C Street

Sacramento, Ca. 95816

Ny initial area of concern in the economic analysis.

103-1 Nombrea in the document could I find the beats for the
numbers used to contrast the preferred alternative to the
least mining intense attensative I this is the 250 - 500
jobs and the billion to billion local economic
generation shown in table I. The basis for these numbers

Such the proven. The fact that the preferred plan will probably missing an application of the property of the preferred with all depends the ambiance of the property of the p

By second concern in the documents absence of analysis of concern for neulistic sequiements for neclaimation bondings. If was born and neised in Montane and have experienced first thand the calcate-ophic environmental consequences of unreclaimed open pit wines. Bond experiments the set at a 1st for a conditional copy of the could not neclaim the Beshley fit will any present mining company be able to section that in this since?

My third concean, which is a policy concean, might operate he lengthcopy and the length of harvasion in an envisonmental document. Nowever, this document not only an envisonmental analysis but clot the paismage planing tool for BIM actions in this area. Therefore, it is imprestive that this leave is a speat deal of public discussion occurating about the 1872 mining law. The central issue of this allowed the 1872 mining law. The central issue of this advancing appeara to be about the conditions under which the United States disposans of its papearty eights. If that there were not allowed to the conditions of the possibility of future disposal is not precluded by the Bureau not allowing mining at the paraent time. It herefore nepretfully sequent that - at this time - the books bout the many of the maintain of a mining the many of allowing mining at the paraent time. It herefore nepretfully sequent that - at this time - the books bout the many for maintainstin of alment explanation and an arthur the mining the

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 103 (Robert W. Harris)

- 103-1) The impact analysis for mining (Chapter 4) has been revised. Also see the minerals general response (p.5-13) and response 54-4.
- 103-2) The issue of bonding will be addressed upon receipt of specific plans of operation for mineral exploration or development. BLM has recently established a new bonding policy which requires bonds on all plans of operation, up to \$2,000 an acre for noncyanide projects. Notice-level operations with a history of noncompliance will also have bonds.
- 103-3) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).

563 Indiana May Alturas CA 95613

Jan. 1, 1998

Michael Ferguson,

787 N. Main St. No. P Bishop Cal 93514

104-1

The Bishop Plan must make the Granite Nountain and the Bodie Hills into federal will derness. It have been in both those places and they need to be designated as wilderness. If you have been there, you know that they seet all willderness attributes. Unless you have been there, you are not qualified to decide the issue.

104-2

The fire protection plan is stupid. Fire in these desert countries area is not frequent and is beset ficial. It does not recommend that the second plan is a second plan in the second years and the land has survived. It is only the fire the second plan is a second plan in the second plan is a plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan is a plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second plan in the second plan in the second plan in the second plan is a second plan in the second p

Finally, the plan should ban all DRV use from the Bishop Rrea. Once again, just go and look what DRV's do to the land. Mould you want to live in an area where people ride DRV's.

-

Peter Alexander

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 104 (Peter Alexander)

104-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

104-2) Please refer to response 45-2.

104-3) See general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8)

December 15, 1990

Bob Ellis 3106 Carlsen St. Oakland, CA 94602

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

105-I S

I have read the Bishop Resource Management Plan and I wanted to write this letter to STRONGLY state my OPPOSITION to the designation of Soldier Canyon as a powerline corridor.

On this issue I FAVOR the NO ACTION/NO EAST-WEST CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVE.

I have been hiking many times in both the White and Inyo Mountains over the last twenty-five years. I treasure the qualities of remoteness and the lack of impact by present-day man. I enjoy seeing a healthy native plant and wildlife community as well as geological aspects of the back country. Native American as well as 19th century mining activities are of intenst to me. All in all, I love those mountains and resist additional impact especially in those fewer and fewer areas which are still primitive.

Last week a friend and I liked up Crooked Road Canyon from the Waucoka Road. We marveled at the narrowing testingle quayon with its Pre-Cambrian rocks and pinyon-juniper community. We stopped atop peak 8936 overlooking the Soldier Canyon divide and tried to visualize a powerline marching over the area. Wether its geso and the Soldier Canyon-Deep Springs side or the Crooked Road Canyon-Eureka Valley side, it will have a disastrous effect on the visual beauty and sense of remotences of the arms.

I urge you to take that hike. I urge you to encourage the Inyo Forest Service people to take that hike. Don't cave in to the pressures of Los Angeles power needs. They will always cry for more even when you have given them all the remaining remote areas. Fight for protection of those areas for which you are responsibile.

Thanks for listening. I'll send you another letter on other aspects of the plan, many of which I applaud.

NO NO NO ON THE EAST-WEST POWER CORRIDOR!!!

Yours truly

BAS GAL

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 105 (Bob Ellis)

105-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Page 210 of the draft RMP states that one of the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area's most distinctive values is its relatively undisturbed, natural character. It also states that transmission line corridor designation would significantly impact that natural character. However, transmission lines in that portion within the Inyo National Forest (including the Crooked Road Carryon area) are not precluded by the "Multiple Resource Area" management prescription applied to it in the Inyo National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (1988).

Dear Mr. Fuguer and BLM RMP stoff-These are my comments for the Resource Manager Plan for the Eastern Seeria Nevada in Meno and Tryce Countres I willy, themse you for a job well-done in researchin. the possibility for Wild and Scenic status of the 10 stream recommended. I just these streams should be protected until Congrass can act upon the recommendations. I also support the whitey corredor elimation and land acquestion recommendations withined in Alternative \$3. However, I feel that too little area is recommend. 106-1 wholewess. 27, 420 ares is only 10% of the roadless are under study. I believe this recommendation must be reviewed and changed, adding addition arrange to to wilderness recommendations. I am also expecially concerns with the plan to build a powerline cornolar in the wild study area, Soldier Goy Conyon. I also feel that much too much land is heft a 106-2 to ORVS. 99% of the area would be open to off to Vectucles and I find that recommend much too brigh tel this portion with plans should be reviewed and that more areas should be considered aff limits to ORVS Lostly, I am concerned with the mining talou place mean Badie. I feel the increased miguingto 106-3 will have the historical value of the State parkened w have the beautype of the Bodie friends you Peter Hotte 1824 Colyste

Dows Ca. 95616

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 106 (Peter Holte)

- 106-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process,
- 106-2) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 106-3) Please see the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).

January 5, 1991

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN Mike Ferguson, Area Manager 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

| Please consider increasing wilderness acreage in the South Inyos, the Bodie Hills, volcanic Tableland and the Granite Mountain Area. These are sensitive areas which deserve protection.

| A proposal in the plan to do away with "Watershed withdrawals" is | NOT-2 | not good. The watershed should be protected. Please keep the | existing withdrawals.

| Please do not create an east-west powerline corridor through | Soldier Canyon. Alternate routes exist outside the Bishop | Resource Area.

Thank you for considering the protection of sensitive plant and animal species in this plan. Every effort must be made to save the species we still have in an ever encroaching world.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Helen C. Dreen

Helen A. Green 2001 Yolo Ave. Berkeley, Ca 94707

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 107 (Helen A. Green)

- 107-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 107-2) See general response on watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 107-3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

2411 San Mateo St. Richmond, CA 94804 Dec. 26,1990

Mr. Mike Pergimenn BLM Bishop Area Manager 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Sir, the twenty odd past years I have had occasion to hike, it is not his case in the watershed areas of your district. I have always been pleasantly to get away from the rigors of civil ratton there, perhaps taking up the rigors of the outdoor life. What has impressed me about this part of our state is that it is an area of conrest, wavenee and muchte. I believe this is one of the

Cenerally I choose to access the Sierra from the east. Being from Richmond this may be looked upon as a labor of love. And I keep cosing back for more. Why? Wild is wild. Particularly in the meigh bothcods of Green Creek, Virginia creek. Even during the best will be the second the control of the control o

Senseth the scenery there is much that does not meet the eye, that Shewanintitated misses altogether. I should hope the afore sentioned cleake is vell as the Hot, Atastra, Dog, Rough, Rock, George, Independing the state of the

Very truly yours,

Stephen Lipinski

e: Rep. G. Miller Sen. A. Cranston Sen. P. Wilson

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 108 (Stephen Lipinski)

108-1) Please see response 69-7.

COMMENTS ON EIR

OWENS VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

AS REGARDS STREAM DIVERSIONS.

NORMALLY A 54 STREAM DIVERSION MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, HOWEVER IN OUR CASE WE HAVE A UNIQUE PROBLEM. WE ARE THE LAST PARCEL OF LAND ON BIRCH CREEK, SOUTH OF BIG PINE BEFORE IT EMPERS DUP COMMISSHIP. MUCH OF BIRCH CREEK IS LEGALLY DIVERTED ABOVE US AND THIS DIVERSION FLOWS BACK INTO TIMEMANA CREEK! MOT BIRCH CREEK. THE FLOW IN OUR PORTION OF BIRCH CREEK IS NOT LARGE AND ANY % OF DECREASE ABOVE US WOULD ADVESSLEY HERACT OUR STREAM FLOW TO A DEGREE WHERE IT HIGHT MARM PISH HABTITAT.

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM
P.O. BOX 637
BIG PINE , CA., 93513

COMMENTS ON THE EIR

ALTERNATIVE 3, I FEEL BEST SUITS THIS UNIQUE REES IN WHICH WE AND LIVE. IT SHOWS AN AMERIESES OF THIS UNIQUENESS, BY NOT ALLOHING CROWTH IN OUR VALLEY OR PROVO COUNTY AS OUR RELATIVELY UNSPOILED TO SELL BLIN LIAND FOR DEVELOPMENT WOULD DESTROY THIS UNIQUENESS AND THE REASON MANY OF US LIVE HERE. ALSO, THERE IS NO RESTION OF WHERE THISSE PROPOSED LANDS FOR SALE ARE LOCATED. MOV CAN WE HEAVE THIS COUNTY THAT OWNERS TO THISSE PROPOSED LANDS FOR SALE IF

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM
P.O. BOX 637
BIG PINE, CA 93513

COMMENTS ON EIR

OWENS VALLEY AREA

AS REGARDS RED MOUNTAIN- I WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE HIKING ON RED MOUNTAIN AS IT IS THE MESTING SITE OF LOCAL RAVENS. ALSO RED MOUNTAIN IS HIGHLY VISIBLE AS YOU COME UP THE VALLEY AND TRAILS WOULD MAR ITS BEAUTY.

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM P.O. BOX 637 BIG PINB, CA 93513 COMMENTS ON EIR

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO THE TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR PROPOSED FOR THE WHITE AND INVO MOUNTAINS. I FEEL THE PROPOSED SITE VIA SOLDIER CANYON MOULD PRACT THE ENVIRONMENT TO AN UNACCEPTABLE DEGREE. NOT ONLY WOULD PLANTS AND ANIMALS SUPERR. BUT HUMANS WOULD SUPERE FROM THE VISUAL IMPACT OF TRANSMISON LINES AND TOMERS. AIRRADY IN THE VALLEY AND EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE A MOUNTAIN RACKROP THAT AT TIMES OBSCURES THEM TO SOME DEGREE, THERE ARE OTHER TIMES WHEN THEY ARE VERY NOTICEABLE DEPRENDING ON THE TIMES OF DAY AND LIGHTNING.

THEREFORE I FEEL THE PROPOSED POWER CORRIDOR THROUGH SOLDIER CANYON

IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE LAS VEGAS CORRIDOR SHOULD BE UTLIZED.

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM P.O. BOX 637 BIG PINE, CA, 93513 COMMENTS ON EIR

BODIE HILL MANAGEMENT AREA

THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO PROTECT THIS UNSPOILED CHOST TOWN AND SURROUNDING AREA. I FEEL ALTERNATIVE 4BEST PROVIDES THIS PROTECTION IN LIGHT OF THE PROSED MINING ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA.

FROM: ROSAMOND GORHAM
P.O. BOM 637
BIG PINE, CA. 93513

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 109 (Rosamond Gorham)

- 109-1) We assume you have a water right on Birch Creek per your comment. Any action the Bureau might consider for diversion of up to 5% of Birch Creek stream flow could not negatively affect your water right.
- 109-2) See general response on acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 109-3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Michael Ferguson, Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main St. Suite P Bishop CA 93514

l have read the Bishop Plan. It has several serious defects. The grazing plan should be seriously reduced. All grazing leases must be made cost efficient. The current leases do not bring in the real soney they cost, especially considering the damage the grazing has done to the land. So out and look at the effect of the grazing.

lio-2 ido not understand the powerline proposal. It does not related to the powerline corridor. It also does not indicate where the power source will be or where the powerline will continue out of the district. Without that information, any proposal cannot be seriously considered. Finally, the wilderness prosposals are deficient. We need

Finally, the wilderness prosposals are dericient, and recpose wilderness protection for the lands that we need future generations. If we do not protect all of the meanining wilderness are our children will end in endless development.

| Incom on statement | The Bureau of Land Management is charged with protecting the public resources. It must not be in charge of selling the public resources to people who only want to make money for their own interests. Any commercial leasing must clearly make a fair return for the owner, the United States.

Yours truly,

Georgia Young 786 Allegro Nay El Cerrito CA 95898

5-353

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 110 (Georgia Young)

110-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response.

Grazing fees are not established in land use plans; they are set annually by the Secretary of the Interior. See 43 CFR 4130.7-1 for further explanation of grazing fee calculation.

- 110-2) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 110-3) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 110-4) The U.S. Government receives fair market value for commercial leasing of public lands.

111

WHERE IS THE POWER LINE GOING AN 111-1

DEAR MIKE

WHY THE RIAW DONT

SAY

GRAZINZ EATS UP THE LAND AND THE

BARZEB DOKKT PAS

FOR WHATTTE SET LITOP IT.

WHUSE SIDE ARE YOU falts Smit OW.

5-354

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 111 (P. Smith)

111-1) Please see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16), the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11), and response 110-1.

389 Wildrose Bishop, CA 93514

January 14 1991

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Hain Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Attention: Mr. Michael A. Perguson Area Manager

RE: Bishop Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I thank you for making available to the public the above plan which indicates the thrust of the BLM approach as to our area in the future.

Ferguson, BLM January 14, 1991 Page Two

The City of Los Angeles Department of Nater and Power continues to buy up public land and as result the economy of the Owens are result the economy of the Owens are result that the growth (or the Continue of the Continue and the growth (or the Continue and the Continue and the State of Continue and Continue and Continue and Continue and Continue are continued to the Continue and Continue and Continue are continued to the Continuence of Some kind of economy in the area.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Pred B Hulting

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 112 (Fred B. Hulting)

112-1) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.

336 Keystone Ct San Rafael, CA 94903 January 12, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Mgr. Bureau of Land Mgmt. 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Wilderness in eastern Sierra Nevadas (Mono and Inyo Co.)

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I am writing to urge your Bureau to consider more carefully the ma gement of the open wilderness areas in Mono and Invo Counties. It is a mistake in my mind to allow off-road vehicles, especially motorized, in this magnificently quiet country. We know the damage caused by these vehicles and the effect they have on the wildlife disposition. It is an extremely alarming experience to come onto or near these vehicles from my own experience. It seems such a disjointed form of "enjoyment" of the outdoors and I feel should be prohibited in this wilderness altogether.

113-1

Your published resource management plan, as far as I can tell, is not addressing the entire roadless area possible for wilderness designation. A little over 27,000 acres were recommended out of a possible 288,618 of the roadless area involved. The idea that this enitre area be protected from man's devices, from mineral exploitation, seems an overwhelming judgement. So much of our country's wild areas have been minmanaged. The BLM should be exemplary in its management of our wilderness, a protector, a guard against people toying with what little of our wild land remains.

I am pleased to see the rivers somewhat protected by becoming eligible for National Wild and Scenie River status. I would hope it a realistic possibility to have more river mileage acquired for inclusion.

Please consider the number 3 alternative set forth as a mose comprehensive and same management for this area.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie LaPorta

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 113 (Rose Marie LaPorta)

113-1) See Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

January 15, 1991 mile Juguson ana manoger Buren & Land Mans grunt Brokop, CA. 93514 Dearm. Tergeson: Regarding the BLM Shafp management Plan on the Public Lands in the Eastern Sierra Some your forcers ou: (Hu Power line Porridor. Han additional Jower line is pecessary, which I doubt it can to gland outside the sensitive Lookop Burne alea (D) Ovugrazing. Ovagrazing is a purious groblem Sensetive areas near abreams and marahu

3) water sheds. Watersheds must be gratecled

Sinculary, Doublera to Luman

114-1

114-2

114-3

must be grotecles

Keep the watershed withdrawale

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 114 (Dorothea B. Susman)

- 114-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 114-2) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 114-3) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street Suite P Bishop, Galif. 93514

1-13-91

Dear Mike

It has come to my attention that you have some desigions to make. A group which I belong to urges me to write you and preserve the desert as a wilderness.

But I don't always go along with the "close it down" policy of preserving the environment. I would rather urge a fine tuning of work habits. It might even be a major shake up, but after the dust settles, there would be a net gain in lobs.

On one hand the ascetics of an area is important. Wilderness to recharge the soul. Wildlife to charge the spirit. Clean air, clean water, and all that. Most of your wilderness advocates live in large cities, they need these argams to keep young.

But the rural resource dependent community is an endangered species, also. It would be a great tradegey to out it's life blood. Look around you in Bishoot.

I think there is a way to have both. To make the "environmentalist" and the locals happy. Fine turns their habits.

On a more personal note, I would be very built if the Birt closed down or restricted my access on public ground on horseback. What is more Aserican than a comboy riding across open space?

I am Lickled that the motorcycle race Barstow to Las Vegas was canceled. I hope you keep it canceled. There is nothing more wasteful than them screaming wheeled idobs,

Again, in an issue that puts peoples liviehood against the environment, find a way to fine tune and cancel out the negetive environmental impact.



115-1

gad luk Mile 8 dwyder

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 115 (Mike Schroepfer)

115-1) The RMP does not restrict casual use activities such as horseback riding.

Harold W. Wood, Jr. 2011 W. Laurel Ln. Visalia, CA 93277

(209) 739-8527

January 12, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Resource Management Plan, Bishop Resource Area

Dear Mr. Ferguson

116-1

116-2

I would like to submit the following comments regarding the draft Resource Management Plan.

In general, I support Alternative 3, the natural resource enhancement alternative. I specifically support the ACEC designations, utility corridor elimination, and land acquisitions outlined under Alternative 3.

I am particularly concerned about the current mining threat to the historical values of Bodie State Park. It is imperative that BLM withdraw all BLM lands adjacent to the State Park from mineral development mining the state Park from mineral development with the state Park from mineral development with the state Park should be withdrawn, to prohibit any aiming in the area. Bodie may be a state park, but it is truly of the state park, but it is truly of mining in the state park should product the state park should product the state park.

Another crucial probles which is a national issue is the probles of over-grazing of our public lands. I request that BLM conduct a careful study of the condition of the range control of the conduct a careful study of the condition of the range crazing not only from areas which are being impacted by overgrazing, but also from all areas where wildlife or other values are being imparted. When I speak of wildlife in this "watchable wildlife"; I as also concerned about many unique species of interest to science whome shoult have been largely destroyed by routine grazing practices. Two means a start of the control of th

or, perhaps soct permicious by so-called range "improvements", where the natural spring is destroyed and replaced by pipes and watertanks. Many natural springs in the Bishop Resource Area contain unwastal invertabrate animal species and unique plant species which are of interest to science, and these springs are deserving the protection, with strong seasures taken to fence the few remaining natural springs of from cattle.

I support wilderness designation for the bulk of the Inyo Mountains, excluding existing roads. This is some of the most scenic BLM land in the United States, and an area that is not appropriate for most other uses than wilderness. Purthernos, ACEC or other protect with the Mountain of the Company of the C

Finally, T support the prohibition of all activities in all Indemness Subny Areas - not just the single proposal by BMM - which detract from their roadless character. In this regard, BLM must not allow any use which will result in the loss of the roadless character of the control of the Wilderness Study Areas, ACEC's and other areas where whicular use degrades resources and conflicts with the needs of wildlife, wetershed protection, and non-mactorized

Please send me a copy of the final RMP when completed.

Sincerely,

wilderness proposal.

Hould W. Vod, G.

5-360

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 116 (Harold W. Wood, Jr.)

- 116-1) Please see the general response for Bodie (p.5-5).
- 116-2) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 116-3) This resource area has already conducted a partial inventory of the natural springs and related biologic resources. That work will continue. Our working policy in the resource area is to fence natural springs from livestock use whenever a portion of the water is used to supply livestock troughs or storage tanks nearby. As biologic resources are discovered in natural springs a determination of whether protective actions are needed is made and prioritized for implementation.
- 116-4) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. Cove Spring is not located in the Bishop Resource Area. It is administered by the Bureau's California Desert District. It has been recommended by the Bureau for wilderness designation.

Please see general response to comments on OHV management.

January 15,1991

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Eureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street Bishop. CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

From 30 years experience of walking the Volcanic Tablaland and owens Valley open spaces recording Cuttural Resources, we believe your decisions are leaning too hard on the Lands ability to surrive the burdens being put on 11. The following suggestions arrive the burdens being put on 12. The following suggestions the control of the control of the support of the control of th

- Should have a moratorium on Finyon wood cutting for fuelwood,
 117-1
 The damage to watershed understory, plants, gool quality, habitat,
 and Cultural Resources from trucks meandering thru the forest
 in search of dead trees is appalling. Now no dead trees left,
 either standing or down. And now they are cutting live ones.
 Lets stop it.
- Thinning for DEC or enhancement of Pinyon-Juniper forcet would adversely affect an important food supply for birds and small animals and Native Americans, Leeving the increases danger of wild fires, Don't do it.
- Revocation of watershed withdrawnis would be a sad day for those lands, opening them to exploitation that ultimately destroys their watershed value. In light of our present and future drought conditions, revoking of withdrawals is NOT the thing to do.
- The overly subsidized Livestock industry should have stronger HIM controls on their use of Public Lands. Closer attention by HIM when developing access routes, water lines, troughs, and tanks to avoid impacting Gultural Recources should be made. Replacing Cattle with Sheep on an Allotmentjust means more damage to the range, Flosse dou't do it.
- Mineral entry should be withdrawn for the Volcenic Tableland, 117-5 Sindep turft has little value as a building material as it is soft, fractures easily and subject to croston, Plucking or bulldozing boulders from tuff outcrops and cliffs degrades Seemid values, Also a hazard to Cultural Resources, see Archaeological Site Report 9RN-9 Tuff Needley.

- The Utility Obridor preference was a cop-out to the Industry.

 I thould be reacquised that with Conservation efforts the
 savings by those wanting more capacity, would effect any need
 for more electrical energy lines going thru inyo and Mone Cos,
 and replacement of old appliances with new energy efficient ener
 would extend present capacity for a long time into the future,
- Priority should be given to proper concern and management of the Volcanic Tableaum 818.8 until they are approved by Tongrees. There is great need to protect the wealth of Cultural Resources out there along with an array of wildlife, from encreachment by GWFs and mining.

Please resist the political pressures that besiege you from all sides. Work toward preserving the natural resources of the Bishop Area Office. They are like money in the Bank, available when a REAL need arises.

Sincerely.

Grace W. Exheld

Mormon Willer

Norman Weller

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 117 (Grace W. Enfield and Norman Weller)

- 117-1,2) Please refer to response 93-6. Fuelwood permits would not allow driving off-road.
- 117-3) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 117-4) Please see general response for grazing (p.5-11).

Cultural resource clearances are required prior to construction for all facilities on public land. If impacts to cultural resources cannot be mitigated, the project is not authorized,

The decision to change type of use from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP.

- 117-5) Three sections around the petroglyphs and Red Rock have been withdrawn to protect these cultural values. The visual resource management classification also will protect scenic values in this area.
- 117-6) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 117-7) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process,

January 15, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P. Rishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

118-1

118-2

I would like to comment on some issues in the Resource Management Plan. Living in Mono City for the past elevan years. I have seen approximately thirteen houses built--a little over one house per year. Mono City has about B5 buildable lots left. At the its present rate of build-out, it might be forty years before Mono City builds out to its maximum. The Forest Service just made a land trade for BO plus acres across Mill Creek. This had been an already approved sub-division which wasn't really needed. Why do we need to set the stage for a potential sub-division behind Mono Citu? I would like to see this land designated as a park for the children of Mono City or as a green-belt to help migration of the deer herds. The Conway Ranch project was approved to build out over 800 plus units. Isn't that enough housing in this area to last a lifetime?

I would also hate to witness the impact mining would have on the Bodie Hills and its surroundings. The heavy equipment trucks traveling the Cottonwood Canuon road would cause dust storms, road ruts, and a danger to the tourist driving on the same roads as an eighteen wheeler truck could be deadly (the roads being very windy and narrow). Also, I had the opportunity to visit with supervisor Andrea Lawrence and others from Mono and Inyo Counties the open pit mines of Borealus and Lucky Boy. The size of the open pits were unbelievably huge in size. Their reclamation was unimpressive. Bodie is a historic site. Open pit mining would be veru destructive. Galactic has not mentioned the size their pit would be upon completion. Also, as a person stands in Bodie it is quiet and peaceful. Noise from the operation, their large trucks and loaders, would echo through the valley. The blasting procedures would be deafening. What will happen after Galactic leaves and we inherit a hole on one side and a cyanide mountain on the other? I don't think Mono County needs these types of hazards. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

PO. Box 372 Just P. Sura Lee U(N)NG

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 118 (Joseph Suppa)

118-1) Thank you for your comment. See general response for acquisitions and disposals.

118-2) See general response for Bodie (p.5-5).



RRI 100 Warm Springs Road Bishop, California 93514 January 17, 1990

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Sirs

119-2

119-3

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bishop RMP and Draff BIS. The inpo-Mono-Alpine Cattlemen's Association would like to take this chance to point out several areas to readdress in your dockment.

It is important that you corelate this document with any decisions and in AMP's. As you know, the current permittee in the Bodle Hills has been involved in a lengthy CMMP process with your office. They have found numerous inequities between the EMF/SIR and their AMP. We assure these areas will be corrected to thoroughly align with the AMP.

We think your land acquisiton proposals are altogether to numerous. The federal government has not proven to be a better land manager than private enterprise. The addition of any private acreage to BLM is unacceptable by our organization.

On page 23, in the wildlife section, you mention livestock as impacting wildlife habitat. We realise this statement in itself is indeed correct, however in your discussion you fail to address the main determinant of wildlife numbers. As long as your office has no control over hunting seasons you can improve the wildlife habitat to the point of perfection and not improve wildlife numbers. The sage grouse has proven it can thrive in grazed areas. Sadly, The same control over the wildlife same proven it is our proposal all sage grouse seasons be climinated versury for the provent of the provent in the

page 2

119-3 cent. all grazing to 40% utilization figures. We realize your direct concern is habitat, not game numbers which are monitored by Fish and Game. The point needs to be made and addressed that populations are hutt by hunting, not cattle.

Thank you for your concern.

Leny Sicco

Gary Giscomini, President Invo-Mono-Alpine Cattlemen's Assn.

ang

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 119 (Inyo-Mono-Alpine Cattlemen's Association)

- 119-1) The CRMP for the Bodie Mountain allotment has been crosschecked with the draft RMP. Any inconsistencies have been resolved in the final RMP.
- 119-2) Thank you for your comment. See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 119-3) We recognize that hunting is a direct mortality on a segment of any game species population. You are correct in noting that the California Department of Fish and Game sets season and quotas on huntable species, and that the Bureau has no direct role in those regulations. However, it is obvious to us that some areas are extensively used by livestock which cause an unacceptable level of vegetation damage and soil loss. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

January 15, 1991

207 WEST SOUTH ST. TELEPHONE 873-5891 ANSA COST 819 BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 19314

> Mr. Michael Ferguson BLM Area Manager Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Enclosed are comments in response to the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Specific comments are listed by page number; general comments on the overall plan follow.

Specific Comments on the Plan:

p. 26 Area Manager's Guidelines section

This would be a good place to highlight how and when the CRM process will be used. The process could be a very valuable one for implementing some of the goals of the RF, and should be used wherever possible.

p. 50, left column: "yearlong protection of aspen groves, meadows and riparian areas" under protection/enhancement of unique or important veg. communities and wildlife habitats:

120-1

What are you protecting against (I'm assuming its livestock grazing, but what about other uses?) and is yearlong protection necessary and in the best ecological interest of these niches? In this inclusive of ALL of these niches in each management area, or applicable only to certain TRUU MUNIGO ones? On the whole resource area, this category occupies creating TRUU MUNIGO solution of the control of the control

p. 50, right column:

120-2

The term "use adjustment" connotates that a decrease in livestock numbers will occur if these goals are not set and should be defined or changed to recognize the flexibility to employ any of several management alternatives to achieve the goal, rather than simply a decrease in numbers allotted to a per-

The Liverinety of Colleges Congregation Extension in exemptions with the Cell rights A new of 1990. This XX of the Scientific Assemblorous of MIZE, and the Scie

University of Collector and the United States Department of Agriculture desperating

120-3

Regarding management of sagebrumb-bitterbrumh vegetation within 2 miles of leks: applying this restriction on some allotments where there are several let aites (example: Boids Hills) would potentially decrease the forage available (based on key grass species—some critical for cattle, since their diet is primarily grassed) to livestock by 30% immediately and permanently within those areas respondences of other management. This should be rewritten to allow flexible management strategies to be unwelpoped for both willide and be allowed to be applied to be app

n. 65 right column "Encourage conversion from cattle to sheen "

120-4

Meeds to be rewritten. Analysis of feasibility of change in livestock class done at time of transfer of permit would be a more reasonable statement. It is a mistake for BMM to assume that sheep are more easily smanged than cattle; it depends largely not be human manager. Also, it is my understanding that sheep diests could potentially be in larger conflict with deer and promphora than cattle, due to similar herbage preferences.

p. 214 under "State Agencies"

120-5

The California Farm Bureau Federation should appear under the list of "Other Organizations", as it is an organization for people with agricultural interests. The appropriate state agency to have on this list would have been the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

p. 239-243, Appendix 1 "Desired Plant Community Definitions"

120-6

A table or tables indicating the percentages of lands that already have reached DPC status would be useful. In the Draft Plan, it is impossible to gauge whether the acreage goals BLM sets for itself are achievable. As written and the property of the prop

Regarding the several riparian-related DPC definitions, what is the REAL difference between a 4, 50 or 6-inch residual plant height? Shouldn't deal such as described here be worked out at the activity plan level where specific problems can have such specific requirement? Most riparian references list a range (generally 4 - 6")—this should be good enough for the Draft Plan also, which is succeed to be a outlind document.

General Comments on the Plan:

120-7

I would strongly recommend that the previous ETS decisions regarding interacts grazing be included or at least summarized in the final document. Although I realize that livestock grazing was not considered an issue because datased by interaction and the state of the decision of the dec

120-B

Regarding strategies to increase favorable wildlife abbitat: What this and for coordination does the Burean have with wildlife agencies in California and Borada regarding hunting policies? Your agency plans to expend allot of time and energy on improvement of habitat for mule deer, prompton, and agency which are subjected to unequal hunting pressures on either side of the state lime that any have a larger impact on populations than habitat improvement lime that may have a larger impact on populations than habitat improvement populations due to destruction of habitat throughout the next plans of the state of t

These are my connents on the Draft Plan.

Rhonda R. Gildersleeve, Ph.D.
Fark Advisor, Inyo & Mono Counties

Sincerely.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 120 (Coop. Extension, Univ. of California)

- 120-1) The decision to which you refer is concerned with the potential impact to the vegetation communities from discretionary actions. Discretionary actions are anything for which a permit or other decision document is required.
- 120-2) It is the BLM's intention to use all available methods of management to achieve the goals set forth in the RMP. If all else fails, then carrying capacity will be adjusted.
- 120-3) This decision has been revised in the final plan.
- 120-4) The decision to encourage conversion from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP.
- 120-5) The change you suggest has been made.
- 120-6) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 120-7) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 120-8) Please refer to response 119-3.

Jan. 15, 1991

Phyllis Mattols 162-8 Vinta Rd. Bishnp, CA 93514

Comments on Bishop Resource Management Plan and Braft Environmental Impact Statement

Document Inadequate

For a number of resenns the DEIS/MP is inadequate and should be entirely re-done. Some of the most glaring deficiencies are as follows:

- 1. The formst makes the document very confusing and difficult to analyze. I have read many environmental documents and found this one very hard to comprehend. It is difficult to compare siternatives or evaluate cumulative impacts in any depth. Because of the cumbersome and fragmented presentation, the information in the DEIS/MP is not accessible to concerned members of the general public. For this resson an entirely new draft document is needed and not just a supplement.
 - 2. Overall information given is vague, sketchy and very general.
 - 3. There is no economic analysis.
- 4. There is little no an data given to support the numerous statements and conclusions. Where are the wildlife and vegetatinn inventories?
- 5. There is no analysis of the impacts of the proposed revocation of watershed withdrawals and subsequent land dispusal. (For example, agriculture, especially alfalfa and row crops, is expected to be the dominant use of these lends. Where will the water come from and what will be the impacts?) Lands to be disposed of are not aven described as to vegetation and habitst types.

With these deficiencies it is not possible for interested citizens to adequately assess the proposed plan.

Fowerline Corridor

121-1

This analysis does not belong in this document. Adequate assessment, and choice of a preferred alternative, require a separate EIS covering the entire length of the various corridors under consideration.

The snalysia of need must be done by an objective outside organization (ant DMP, one of the proponents) and must include an alternative which focuses on implementating of conservating measures and use of alternative energy (especially solar).

The small amount of informating given indicates unacceptable environmental impacts from powerline curridor development in any of the proposed routes. The Preferred Alternative would apparently be in vinlating of the Endangered Species Act because of expected bald engle mortality (p. 209).

Wilderness

The recommendations for Wilderness designation is very disappointing-only 121-2 27,420 acres out of over 288,000 acras of roadless area studied. All of these areas merit Wilderness designation and should be managed to protect their wilderness and roadless qualities on a permanent basis. The DEIS/NF does not even mention the other roadless areas. Their management and expected impacts should be covered.

Mottola-2

121-2 1 I would like to see the lands east of Mono Lake managed as much as possible Cont. as wilderness to insure preservation of the area's special qualities of silence. solitude, and the familiar of a vast expanse of unspoiled land.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

I support Wild and Sceoic River designation for the streams recommended for further study. In addition, Mill Creek to the Coleville area and Rough Creek in the Bodie Hills should be re-evaluated.

Mineral withdrawals are minimal under the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 12.1-4 3 is superior to this respect, but still inadequate. The BLM should do everything in its power to provide as much protection as possible for Bodis by instituting a total minaral withdrawal to the Bodie sram. Locatable mineral withdrawals should be implemented along Pat Keyes Trail and io the South Love management area. There should be s withdrawal for locatable minerals of all lands that have habitat for plants and saimals that are candidates for Endangered Spacies status. There should also be a goothermal leasing withdrawel buffer zooe around the Mono Basio National Forset Scenic Area

Recreation

lo sevaral areas the Preferred Alternative proposes promotion of increased 121-5 recreation use such as added OHV routes, new mountain bike routes and hiking trails, and increased hot tub use. Little information is given as to specific locations or impacts of the proposed activities. In some cases there will be habitat degradation as a result of increased recreational usa promoted by BLM. For example, in one of the few spacific cases giveo, the construction of Slinkard Trail will decrease by 10% the quality of riperian habitat. This is unacceptable. Increased recreation should not be promoted or allowed at the expense of wildlife habitat. Planned degradation is irresponsible.

An ROS map in needed.

While acquisition of the Manzener site may be desirable, this does not seem a good priority for use of limited BLM fuods. Designation as a National Monument would be more appropriate, under the administration of the National Park System.

Some protection from vandalism of the Salt Trans may be worthwhile; but, assin, this does not seem to be a high priority when other natural aspects of the environment; are so badly io oeed of protection and restoration. How would the suggested protection of the trams he accomplished?

Uodar Bridgaport Marsh Management, it should be noted that hunting and wildlife victing are oot compatible forms of recreation.

OHV use needs to be much more restricted and monitored to protect wildlife. vagatation and visual values. OHV use should be prohibited in all WSA's, ACEC's, and areas where sovironmental demage is occurring or sensitive habitat, cultural or land features are at risk.

Mottola-3

Grazing

Details oo grazing practices and impacts are lacking but the general information given indicates current and historic grazing practices and management have resulted in moderate to severe covironmental degradation in much of the area. The 1981 and 1983 grazing EIS's are referred to as providing information and management direction. But habitat and wildlife have declined as a result of this management.

Although little specific information is given to the current document, atresm and vagatation inventories cited show alarmingly degraded habitat. Of 146 miles of streams iovactoried, 45% need restoration. Of 282 aprings invantoried, 141 are only io fair conditioo. (p. 129) There has been a decline to aspen condition in the Bridgeport area hetween 1980 and 1988 because of livestock use. The percent of aspec groves in good vegetative condition has declined from 83% to 21% (p. 132). Cited riparian inventories of 1979 and 1989 (p. 134) give only one set of figures and no comparison of conditions at the beginning and end of this 10-wear period. What is the trend? What other inventories have been done?

A complete and comprehensive inventory of various vegatative types and conditions aseds to be completed and compared to earlier invectories. Grazing must be evaluated on so area-wide level, including details of cumulative impacts. An evaluation should be done of whether or not livestock grazing is ecologically sustainable to this region. whether it is cost-effective, and whether it is compatible with quantitatively and . qualitatively healthy wildlife populations.

Impacts predicted for proposed grazing restrictions on permittees are too sketchy. Who are the permittees, local reachers or absentes permit-holders? What exactly are the expected socio-economic impacts?

Tables should be included showing acres erayed. AUM's, and acresse in DPC under each alternative.

Desired Plant Communities

121-7

It is difficult to evaluate the desirability of this proposed management because so little detail is given, either of what such management would involve or what the impacts would be.

Since grazing has had such severs impacts, it is hard to halieve that BIM "cao significantly improva wildlife habitat by meeting DPC goals, without serious impacts on livestock operations." or that BLM will be able to "modify existing grazing systems to meet DPC goals without drastic changes." (Letter, N. Ferruson, 12/21/90.)

There should be a detailed explanation of how the DPC goals would be achieved. hat is cended is to allow cature to restors a healthy acceptate by removing the causes of datarioration (to most cases this means restricting or eliminating livestock use), and, where occessary, to assist in this process by removal of exotics and aslective restoration work. Extensive vegetative manipulation would be costly and environmentally unequand. For example, dange stands of ployon-jumipar (75 tress/acre) would be drastically thiosad to 20-40 tress/scra. What is the retionals for such beavy-handed manipulation? What would be the environmental affacts? Wild lands need not and should not be managed to attain a static park-like condition

Mottole-4

121-7 Cont: DPC would be defined for only 30% of BLM lands (p. 29), but livestock greate ebout 50% of these lands (p. 19). What percentage of greated lends would be managed on DPC? What measures would be taken on the remaining grazed lands in raducs impacts of livestock and restore degraded habitan?

Fire

Full fire suppression appears to be the epproach throughout most of the management area. This is on outdeted and environmentally unsound policy. Willdfire is an essential part of healthy eccaptens. In cases where busan life, structures, and livestock or agriculture are not threatened, a let-burn policy should be instituted for lightning-caused fires.

Revocation of Watershed Withdrewels

121-8 sc sh

As noted above, there is little or no enalysis of the impects of this proposed sction nor of lends proposed for disposal. In any case, the protective withdrawals should remain in place.

In wall eware of the resentemen felt by some local citizens in regard to the large amount of Moone ed luyor Connecties in public one certain. As described as the state of the

Wildlife end Habitet

121-

because of habitet losses frum human population growth end resource exploitation, widilite everywhere is under commons stress. Even in the magnificent open lends of the Esstern Sisters, which look will and unapplied to the casual observer, only remant wildlife populations remain. Dafartunately, federal lend management has done much to contribute to the decline of wildlife.

A 1999 General Accounting Office report concluded that the "BLM has not adequately balenced the competing demands on the natural resources that it is mandeted to foster, protect and preserve. BLM has often placed the needs of commercial interests such as livestock permittees chead of other users as well as the long-term health of the resources." (See comments under regular)

Current mesagement of public loads in the Eastern Sterre has contributed to the decline of visitife habiter and propeletions. This must be remedied. In many cases, public lands are the last refuge of visitife species pushed out of private lands by development. The public leads must be managed to pressave, schance end restore habites and protect wildlife. The Preferred Alternative does not do enough to eccomplish this.

Even the so-called Naturel Resources Enhancement Alternative (#3), while superior to Alternative 4 in most instances, cennot be considered sufficient to properly protect and restore vidilife end its habitat. In some cases Alternative 3 would result

Mottola-5

in degradation or loss of habitat.

121-9 cont. In support designation of all 10 ACCF's, yearing pracection of the South Inhalands, establishment of an Inpos fristiceom Fracective Area, relationated and highers sheep in the Inpos, protection for forest take untimade, sequisition of upringment assume land acquisitions for the headily of the Acceptance of the Accept

In closing, I request that the following questions be answered.

|21-|0 | 1) Why are the sage-bitterbrush communities predicted to decline in Alt. 3 but not Alt. 47 (p. 12)

2) What is the rationale for allowing car access and camping within 1/3 mile of sage grouse leke? (p. 50)

3) What methods will be used to increase optimum mage graume habitat from 12,1-12 30% to 60%? (p. 50)

4) Explein the rationale for allowing stress bank "artificial soil alteration" of 20%. (p. 50)

5) Are mountain beaver and chukar native to this region? If not, what is their impact on other species with which they may be in competition?

[1-15] 6) How will habitat be provided for wild horses? (p. 68)

| 7) Why is protectively fenced waterfowl nesting area limited to 160 acres? (p. 69)

8) How will the fishery and wildlife habitat be retained on Wilson Creek? (p. 69)

of thermal water essential to listed, candidate, and unique species? (p. 76)

10) What is the reason for water diversions which will cause riparian vegetation losses in the Coleville sres (18%) and Granite Mountein (11%)? (p. 93 6 101)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 121 (Phyllis Mottola)

- 121-1 The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16). Any potential impacts to threatened or endangered wildlife species would require agency consultation and clearance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the environmental analysis of a proposed project (as per the Endangered Sencies Act).
- 121-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 121-3) The suitability or nonsuitability of the eligible creeks will be addressed in the upcoming studies outside the scope of this RIMP. Regarding Mill Creek, please see response 100-37. Rough Creek was determined as eligible in the draft RIMP and will maintain that status in the final RIMP.
- 121-4) See general responses for Bodie (p.5-5) and minerals (p.5-13),
- 121-5) Please see responses 79-7 and 92-38.

Our RMP emphasis promotes a simple and easily understood recreation opportunity spectrum concept that generally applies to Bureau lands. Please see Chapter 3 of the draft RMP for further information.

Your comment regarding Manzanar has been noted and considered. Please see response 29-1.

Tram protection methods would be addressed in upcoming activity plans for the area.

Please see general response to comments on OHV management.

121-6) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11), and the "Grazing" section of Chapter 4.

The majority of the springs, streams, and aspen groves cited are in the Bodie Hills. Within the last seven years, 7 CRMPs have been developed with the main goal of improving these key resources and wildlife habitat.

Bishop Resource Area permittees have livestock operations in California and Nevada, These permittees or their families have been grazing this area since the early 1900's.

See Appendix 5 on p.265 of the draft RMP for a listing of allotment grazing information. DPC acreage is given for each Alternative and Management Area on pp.51-89 of the draft.

- 121-7) Please refer to the DPC general statement, and response 45-2.
- 121-8) See general responses for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8) and acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 121-9) We appreciate your concern for improvement of wildlife habitat quality and populations. Your comments have been considered in the final plan.
- 121-10) The error has been corrected for the final plan.
- 121-11) Information collected on sage grouse lek use indicates that vehicle travel and camping at less than 1/3 mile can cause displacement of birds from the lek or disturbance to breeding behavior during the breeding season. The final plan does not prohibit vehicles within 1/3 mile of leks; this concern will be addressed in vehicle use plans to be developed for the Bodie Hills and Long Valley resource areas.
- 121-12) Primarily changes in livestock grazing management will provide an improvement to the understory vegetation component in sage grouse habitat.

- 121-13 Providing for a maximum of a 20% change from optimum bank condition retains the stream segment at the highest rated value of 4. Streambanks remain stable, but may be lightly altered in the segment. Natural forces contribute some minor amount of bank atteration on occasion.
- 121-14) Mountain beaver (Order: Rodentia) is a native species to California and the eastern Sierra. The chukar (or Hungarian partridge) is an exotic species introduced to California from Europe. The impact (habitat competition) by chukar on native species is unknown.
- 121-15) The word "provide" is supposed to be "manage". A small portion of the Montgomery Pass wild horse herd habitat is in Adobe Valley and eastern Mono basin. This habitat will be maintained as per the existing HMP.
- 121-16) The 160 acre limit has been removed from the final plan.
- 121-17) The Conway Ranch Partnership has received approval to intensively develop their property on Conway Meadow which includes a substantial segment of Wilson Creek. Our intent is to work cooperatively with the partnership to ensure the Bureauadministered portions of Wilson Creek are not impacted due to actions on the private land.
- 121-18) This decision has been changed in the final plan.
- 121-19) Concerning Coleville, please refer to response 100-164. The Grantle Mountain management area statement on p.101 of the draft should have read: "Diversion of up to 5% of the natural flow from any stream or spring could remove from 5-11% of riparian vegetation within 10 years." These are potential effects under a worse case situation. Also see the area-wide decision concerning "no net loss" of riparian vegetation (Chapter 2, final RMP).

January 14, 1991 Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 767 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Draft Resource Management Plan. It is a document that will affect all of us who live in and visit the Bishop Resource Area. My comments will focus on the Bridgeport, Bodie Hills, and Granite Hountain Resource Areas.

Bridgeport: I support, with some exceptions, the adoption of Alternative 3 for the Bridgeport Hanagement Area. This alternative most effectively endorses the wildlife and scenic values of this area. The Conway Summit area because of its incredible visual value should be designated as an ACEC. The Travertine Hot Springs , because of their unique nature and importance to the local population should be protected and maintained under the designation of ACEC. Activities incompatible with the natural charm of Travertine, such as target shooting and off road vehicle driving, should be altimated.

Because of their scenic and potential wildlife values, I would like to see

Virginia Creek, Green Creek, and Dog Creek receive Wild and

Scenic River Status. Perhaps the BLM could acquire more length of

122-2 I these waterways thereby insuring a larger area to Scenic River Status.

122-3

122-4

I do not support mineral exploration on Potato Peak in the Bodie Mountains. I would like to see permission for exploration withdrawn from this area.

Because of its high visibility and cultural value, I do not support mineral exploration or withdrawl from the Dogtown mining district. I ask that the BLH recognize cultural and scenic values in areas of such high visibility and cultural importance.

Because of the declining populations of sage grouse and deer herds, I support the protection and boost Alternative 3 would give to these populations.

Bodie Hills: Hy primary concern for this management area is the issue of mining. I appreciate under Alternative 3 the BLM proposed ACEC designation for the Bodie Bowl, Potato Peek, Rough Creek, and Beauty Peek but I would like them to takes this designation to its full potential and withdraw mining rights from these areas. The stand the BLM takes now could allow for degradation of these scenic and historical areas. The BLM, especially in regard to the Bodie Bowl, has the opportunity to recognize that cultural and scenic values can be more important to the economy and livilihood of our county than the proposed mining. They can recognize that the health of Bodie relies not just on preserving the town but on protecting the entire environment that surrounds and is a part of the Bodie experience and beauty.

Please withdraw all mining rights from the areas surrounding

122-4 cont. the Bodie State Park. The mining operation would produce noise, scenic, and environmental pollution. Unfortunately, there still remain amang unknowns about the intentions of the mining operations. How large will the open pit be? The BLH should not support an activity that could be so destructive to a state treasure. They should not support an activity that contains so mang unenswered questions. The Resource Hanagement Plan must be able to address all the consequences—social, economic, environmental, scenic—that the endorsement of mining will generate in Plano County. In this way, the plan seems tacking. All four of the alternatives endorse mining in some way. An alternative exploring the no mining option needs to be presented.

I appreciate under Alternative 3 the restriction of snowmobiles in sage grouse wintering areas.

I also support the designation of Copper Mountain as an ACEC. It is an ideal wildlife habitat and is essential to the scenic qualities of the Mono Basin. Again, I appreciate the concern this alternative shows

122-6

towards wildlife

Though I appreciate the BLM's attempt to improve recreation in the Eastern Sierra, I question the need for mountain bike trails in the Bodie Hills Area. This may be inviting future degradation of the land. Already, there are many roads that people may travel via bike, foot, or horse. Perhaps the BLM could improve some of these roads but not encourage the construction or use of other roads.

Granite Mountain: I support Alternative 3 for the Granite Mountain Management Area. I support the BLM's attempts in this alternative to acquire lands to enhance wildlife habitat and to maintain scenic qualities. I support the DPC goals to improve mule deer, sage grouse, pronghorn, block bear, fish, and covity nesting species habitats.

I ask that the BLH seek further communication with the Conway Rench property owners in order to potentially acquire this private property. Its location categorizes it as one of the most scenic percels in the flono Bosin. Though I understand it has been approved by Mono County and that land acquisition has not been a priority, I ask that the BLH keep this as a possibility. Acquistion of this land would create a scenic byway from Lee Vining to Bridgeport that would be unperalled in the state of Colifornia.

122-7

122-8

Under Alternative's 1 and 2 disposal of 80 acres adjacent to Mono City is suggested. This 80 acres appears to be part of a deer migration corridor. Its scenic value is noted when driving down Conway Summit; it lessens the visual impact of the community of Mono City. It would also, when the Conway Ranch project is developed, provide a buffer between Mono City and this large development. Subdivided, this parcel would add to the scenic destruction of the Mono Basin. I ask that the BLM not consider disposing of this land. The community of Mono City has not reached full buildout. Let us not develop valueble open space when the developable land is undeveloped. I ask that the BLM withdraw this consideration or that they look at establishing this parcel as a greenbelt and maintaining it as a natural and scenic orea.

8LH Wilderness Study Areas: I was disappointed that the BLM
recommended only 27,420 acres in the Southern Ingo WSA for Wilderness.
I was also disappointed that the discussion of Wilderness designation for
other WSA's was not addressed in the Resource Plan. This plan seems like
the appropriate place for this to happen.

In conclusion, I thank you for your time. I would like to see the Eastern Sierra remain the visual resource It is today. I ask that your plan consider that very little of California remains as it was. The BLH has the opportunity to protect for future generations a land of pristine beauty.

Thank you,

Palica Holland Suppa

Patricia Holland-Suppa P.O. Box 372 Lee Vining, CA 93541

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 122 (Patricia Holland-Suppa)

- 122-1) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 122-2) Please see response 69-7.
- 122-3) The Potato Peak area is adjacent to the Bodie Mountains Wilderness Study Area. This area was deemed to be unsuitable for wilderness classification in the EIS prepared to address that issue. There are several mining claims and the area has high mineral potential for gold and other metals. See general mineral response, item 3.
- 122-4) Please see the general Bodie response. Your concerns have been addressed in that response.
- 122-5) We appreciate your concern for the Copper Mountain ACEC.
- 122-6) Please see response 79-7.
- 122-7,8) Thank you for your comment. See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 122-9) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.

5 pain hower I Rouch 1/14/91 Anne P Come Pre Ca 98545

Mike Ferguson
BLM Aren Monager
787 A Mara SuiteP
Bishorp Ca 93514

Paur Mike, I would like to make the following comments about the BLM's convent RMP.

Ash Creek Allotownt 6042

I am against the complete elemination of the I runk BLET 123-1 grazing permit (Ash Creek) as shown in att. 254 map. "land ase restrictions."

Ash Crook Unalloted area

All. # 4, graing on unalloted areas All Creek Albahant
1232 Should be changed to real as in Alt B3, "Espand the Ash Creek
allotment to Include unalloted areas oast of the aqueduct
when livestuck management facilities are in place. Brustree
13 103 prossible for providing these facilities."

For years I have been told by the BLM persone I and maps that the I ranch would have the Ash Creek allot ment increased to include that area east of the aquedact is a sance of maplace to keep cattle off hung 375.

I om not asking for increased All Ma. This unallated area would add standarity to the present grazing system. There exists a greater possibility for rotational grazing with this addition. Also the assume page cups bilities

are excellent in many years.

123-2
1991 will be the 3rd straight gour we have voluntarily and not used the Ash Creak alletment. We did this to protect the range. The added BLM hand would enable us to better manage grazing and aid in techniq cure of the range. Not only is your plan for no grazing contrary to what I have been to be 500 years, but it loses an apportantly to better manage grazing in the desert, without increasing AllMI.

New Power (The corridors

I am against new power line corridors and more power lines in this area. The offect on wildlite, sconic values, and the local economy movie huriness, would all be negative.

In conclusion, it is important to the Spain hower I Ranch that the future anticipated use of the Ash Creek unalloted area be straightened out. Phose call I can be of help in this Matter.

Sincerely, Jon Nobard RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 123 (Tom Noland, Spainhower I Ranch)

- 123-1 The existing Ash Creek allotment will remain a valid allotment. The map error has been corrected.
- 123-2) The RMP provides the opportunity to reassess the appropriateness of past land use decisions. The previous decision planned for the inclusion of all of the Ash Creek unallotted area into the existing Ash Creek Allotment, conditional upon the needed fencing and water developments being installed by the permittee.

Your current interest in only the unallotted portion west of highway 395 to the aqueduct greatly modifies the opportunities for management that would benefit the existing Ash Creek allotment. We do not perceive a great benefit to extending grazing use of some 40 HUM's on approximately 2,500 acres in this area, either to your existing Ash Creek allotment or to your livestock operation in general. Maintaining this area as unallocated will be the best protection of the range both under normal conditions and during drought.

123-3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Roland A. Knapp 113 Vista Del Mar Dr. Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Mike Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Lnad Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

January 12, 1991

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

124-1

124-2

I am writing to express my concern with various sections of the draft Resource Management Plan for the Bishop Resource Area. Although dozens of pages would be necessary to adequately address the plan's shortcomings, I only have the time to address a few key issues. I will focus on livestock grazing and "Desired Plant Communities".

I was appalled at the lack of changes proposed for livestock management in the RMP. The RMP states that livestock grazing has caused the widestpread degradation of aquatic habitate, (pg. 128, 134), springs (pg. 129, 135), water quality (pg. 129), aspen growes (pg. 132), and bitterbrush/sagebrush communities (pg. 135) the RMPs own admission, bully 66 of 146 miles of stream need restoration work and an additional 53 need some habitat improvement. To sum up the effects of livestock grazing, the RMP states that "The ecological condition of the vegetative communities can generally be attributed to past and present livestock use" (pg. 143). Despite this, the RMP does not address stocking levels, seasons of use, and other details of livestock "management", deferring such important decisions until a later date. According to the RMP, "if the resource objectives established in the RMP are not being met, changes in livestock grazing practives will be made as necessary to achieve those objectives". Given that your agency currently has the necessary monitoring data to show that these objectives are not being met, this deferral is extremely troubling. Instead of putting off decisions which must be made now if the resource is to be adequately protected, the RMP should present monitoring data for each allotment, management objectives for each allotment, and recommendations to ensure that these objectives are met.

The RMP proposes a series of resource objectives under the umbrella term of "Desired Plant Communities". If I understand correctly, changes in livestock grazing practices will be instituted if DPC guidelines are not being met. It is extremely important, therefore, that these guidelines are such that the plant community resulting from DPC management is one in a healthy state, fully capable of supporting near-maximum levels of all plant and animal species expected to exist in that particular community. Unfortunately, as described, the DPC concept is next to worthless. There is no way to discern how similar the DPC is to an ungrazed community of the same type. For example, the DPC guidelines for aspen groves are designed to ensure a tree size composition of 13% ≥ 12° DBH, 37% 10-12° DBH, and 50% < 10°DBH. Where did these numbers come from? compare with an ungrazed aspen grove? For all I know, the DPC guidelines may result in extremely poor aspen grove habitat conditions. Therefore, for all DPC's, you must provide baseline (ungrazed) conditions against which we can judge the validity of the DPC guidelines.

Riparian communities are extremely important habitats for a tremendous 124-3 number of wildlife species in the Bishop Resource Area. The DPC guidelines for these communities should therefore be extremely stringent. Instead, the RMP suggests a DPC goal of 'maximizing forage volume and the diversity of microclimatic features in the site". What on earth does this mean! Since livestock mainly eat grass, this could be interpreted to mean that the DPC will be composed of lots of grass. This would decidedly not represent a healthy riparian community. How you intend to "maximize microclimatic features" is equally unclear.

If this wasn't bad enough, the RMP proposes to establish DPC management on only 103,000 acres of the 745,000 acres which make up the Bishop Resource 124-4 Area. Therefore, the management of 642,000 acres will remain unchanged no matter what the condition of habitats in these areas is! The RMP attempts to placate the public by stating that the "642,000 acres would remain in their present condition for the long term". This is truly outrageous. Since your own monitoring data shows the range conditions are rapidly declining, this acreage would NOT remain in its present condition!

In short, I see nothing in the RMP which even vaguely suggests to me that your District has any intention of changing its abysmal livestock grazing practices.

A few additional comments. The RMP is equally abysmal in its treatment of 124-5 Wilderness Study Areas. At the very least, the RMP should protect the roadless character of all WSA's until designated as wilderness or "released" by Congress. The RMP proposes to withdraw 0.5% of land from mineral entry. Whose land is this anyway? I was under the impression that it was owned by the public. And finally, this utility corridor business. This has no place in the RMP. Powerline construction should be considered in the context of a full-blown EIS which considers all aspects of the construction, not just its affects on BLM lands within the Bishop Resource Area. As treated in the RMP, the impacts of a powerline through the 124-6 ecologically sensitive Deep Springs Valley are not even mentioned.

> My suggestion for this whole process is that you postpone it until you really want to begin managing the land for the benefit of wildlife and plant habitats, and not a bunch of cowboys and miners.

> > Roland A. Knap

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 124 (Roland A. Knapp)

124-1) Please see the "Grazing" general respons (p.5-11).

The majority of the springs, streams, and aspen groves cited are in the Bodie Hills. Within the last seven years, 7 CRMPs have been developed with the main goal of improving these key resources and wildlife habitat.

- 124-2) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 124-3) Microclimatic features within a riparian site are concerned with the structural interlocking of stems and branches within approximately 5 feet of the ground. With greater volume of this vegetation, microclimatic features for numerous animal species are improved. Your interpretation of forage volume as mostly grass in the understory component of riparian sites is not necessarily correct. Much woody and other herbaceous vegetation is present.
- 124-4) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 124-5) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 124-6) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

KEATING ASSOCIATES

COMSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS

847 PACIFIC STREET PLACERVILLE, CALIF. 95667 PHONE: (916) 622-9013

CERTIFIED MAIL - RRR

January 15, 1991

Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 Mo. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514-2498

Reference: Draft Bishop Resource (RMP/EIS)

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

12.5-1 I am the license applicant on the Pacha Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 3259 in the Mono Basin Drainage area, pending before the FERC since 1982.

I request that you take no action in the Management Plan that would preclude this project's eventual development.

Sincerely,

Saught III Kales of

Joseph M. Keating

License Applicant

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 125 (Joseph M. Keating)

125-1) Thank you for your comment.

January 15, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St. Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

I would like to complement the Bureau of Land Management on the overall quality of the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. It is a thorough document that shows awareness and sensitivity to the natural resources of the area.

- sensitivity to the natural resources of the area.

 12.6-1

 The Transmission Corridor proposals should be dropped from this plan and EIS. No consideration to Transmission Corridors outside the Owens Valley are considered. The date used to identify Soldier Carpon as the preferred route are incomplete, either through inadvertant omission or blass. Conducting the control of the blodge of the Carpon Car
- 12.6-2

 A more detailed description of, and plan for the protection and mortiform of examine the belief with the plan are is needed. No DPC for equatic plants is included. In The Plan It is acknowledged that the water gathering activities of The City of Los Angless Department of Water and Power will probably negatively impact the environment of the area, this is especially true of sprincing felds. Further clarification of plans for grazing practices in
 - aquatic/riperian areas is needed.

 The menagement of BLM lands based on Desired Plant Communities is one of the strong points of this document. However, this concept should be expanded to cover the entire area.
- 12.6-3

 Ris not clear what monitoring of activities will be instituted to assure programment of the programm
 - eventuality.

 I fully support the inclusion of a large are of the Inyo Mountains in the Wilderness Study Area. This would lead, hopefully, to Wilderness designation
 - for mess areas.

 I believe Alternatives 1 and 2 are unacceptable. Alternative 4 would be acceptable only when a well defined monitoring and enforcement plan was included as part of the alternative.
 - As stated in your document Alternative 3 "Would maintain or improve the condition of the natural environment." Barring improvements to Alternative 4, Alternative 3 is the plan I will support.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in the formulation of this plan and again, congratulations on the preparation of a balanced and thorough document.

Sincerely

Thomas I Lipp

Thomas C. Lipp P.O. Box 99 Independence Calif., 93526

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 126 (Thomas C. Lipp)

- 126-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study. Pages 38-39 and Appendix 8 of the draft RMP cite vast areas of land, including areas outside the Owens Valley, where new east-west transmission line corridors have been considered but are not possible because existing or proposed land use allocations (National Monuments, military reservations, proposed wildernesses, Wilderness Study Areas, etc.), terrain, and/or land management emphasis preclude such uses. See also response 56-8 and response 100-182.
- 126-2) When appropriate, we intend to use an aquatic vegetation DPC in future activity plans.

Livestock grazing limits in riparian areas will be determined in individual action plans for allotments on habitat management plan areas.

For an answer to your concern for applying DPC management to the entire resource area, please refer to the DPC general statement.

126-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11) and response 120-2. Also see the "Monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP, An area-wide monitoring support need has been added to Chapter 2. 3750 El Canto Drive Spring Valley, CA 91977 January 14, 1991

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager, BLM 787 North Main Street Number P Bishop. CA 93514

Re: DRMP/EIS Bishop

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bishop Resource Nanagement Plan and accompanying ISS. I have been privileged to enjoy this area since the 1930s as a hiker, backpacker and skiter. even the days when there was only one rope tow at Creative and none at Mamnoth, and, when we could drink freely from streams and lakes.

I have also been involved with the wilderness legislation in the 50s and 60s; FIPMA in the 70s and the California Desert Conservation Area in the 1980s.

First, I commend you for recommending Mational Wild and Acenic trasts. If no second or the good vivers/atreas. That is cartainly a right step in the direction of protecting and enhancing this fantatic area. Perhaps at ank force could be put together.to investigate acquisition of private purpose the second of the put together to prove the properties of the properties of the properties to increase the system...mayby asserts.

Thank you also for proposing ACEC protection for several areas under Alternative 3. Please do not close the door on designating others.

127-1

As to wilderness, I am disappointed that you intend to "celease" roadless areas without further study and public participasem. If I remember correctly, Congress rejected a couple of wilderness proposals which carried "celease language," wilderness is not a single-purpose designation as some of calam, nor does it precludely, wilderness is a smitt-use (for a maticans) seergroup, factually, yilderness is a smitt-use (for a maticans) is a smitt-use (for a maticans). I would recommend that you deleted all "release language" for roadless areas whether or not recommended for wilderness.

127-2

As to Off-road Wahicles, I strongly urgs all language and plans for dispersed whhile recreation be deleted. Most of the resource area is showing signs of and stress from unregulated wehicle use. Mountain bits are no exception. Dispersal from Sways and Sackcountry Dysors will be difficult to control, especially if various jurisdicvalues of the control of the control of the control of the control of the vill make education, enhancement and protection very difficult.

12.7-3 | Grazing and Mining are holdovers from earlier days of "development"

127-3 cont and "use." Both are single-purpose uses and days access and use by other users. Compressional oversigh bearings have indicated the low return to the public from such uses. Current problems created by foreign ownership have publicized this problem. See attachment A. I resent the fact that mining companies from abroad take home the big profit as a well as the actual gold, silver or whatever. And to have this privilege compounded by the destruction of cur bodie is gross. I recommend that if well outside the contract of the compound of the contract of the compound of the contract of the

127-4

Grazing in or adjacent to ACEC's and DPCs should be phased out. The use .f exclosure or enclosure fences must be decided only after full public i review, and the USFNS in the case of Rare/Endangered/Threated species.

127-5

I would like to suggest that the Sishop Resource Area incorporate modern planning philophies. It is probally too late to revise the Han, but guidelines could be revised to direct future planners as well as current amangers to include projects and decisions reaches the country of the country

I support Alternative 3 as coming the closest to long-range, sustainable use and enhancement of this Eastern Sierra precious area.

Please keep me on the mailing list for the Final RMP and EIS as well as notices of hearings. If there is a charge, please advise me.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Allen

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 127 (Harriet Allen)

- 127-1) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 127-2) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 127-3) Mining and grazing are allowed by law as two of many appropriate uses of the Public Lands. Please see the general Bodie response to answer your concerns.
- 127-4) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 127-5) We appreciate your concern and interest in new strategies for land management. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

P.O. Drawer V Independence, Ca., 93526 January 16, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Mangement 787 N. Main , Suite P Bishop, Ca., 93514

Dear Sir:

The following are my comments on the Bureau of Land Mangement's Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In Table 2-1, Area-Wide Summary of Decisions, under the title Land, the preferred Alternative shows the acquisition of 18,700 acres, but disposition of only 8,900 acres of land. I believe this imbalance should be addressed in the RMP so that the amount of additional land acquired to enhance the environment ahould be equal to that disposed of for community expansion and services and agriculture. I upo county is liready owned 98.3% by growth to sustain the economy and enhance the quality of life.

I would like to see the 280 acres mear the town of Independence cleased to the community, as tentatively agreed to in the 1986 Agreement between the BLM, LADWP, and Inyo County on disposals and withdrawn lands.

I also think the RNP should release those improved parcels that have been in private use for many years. The Mannatt property on Independence Creak has been a private residence for over 60 years, the RNP would clear up the uncertainty over the status of the parcels.

Yours truly,

Jane Bright

B. Jane Bright

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 128 (E. Jane Bright)

128-1) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

128-2) The final plan has been revised to include this disposal.

128-3) See response to comment letter 41.

SIERRA INTERESTS, INC.

173 Summit Boad Bishon, CA 93514

January 14, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Hain Street, Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

RE: Draft RMP and Draft EIS - Bishop Resource Area

This is to respond to provisions of the RMP dealing with 129-1 and acquisitions and land dispositions. The preferred alternative substantially increases the amount of acreage in public hands and sharpens the local economic constraint cited at page 139 of too little land available for community services, residential development and industrial uses.

> General Plans of Inyo County and the City of Bishop each call for substantial releases of land from the public sector into private ownership. Land releases, principally those of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power close to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power close to large the County of the County of the County of the needed housing and generally help smittain a healthy local economy.

> The BMP states that a preferred method of acquisition is by trade. This is to suggest a mitigation measure for the problem ldentified in your plan. The BMP should rise trade the problem of the problem of the problem of the best such and would likely then prove sees stateative to the private sector. This attractivenes could then be used to the private sector. This attractivenes could then be used to the your "acquisition" lands and then trade then to the BMP for the sore useable land close to towns. A side effect of this can be accordated in the problem of the sore useable land close to towns. A side effect of this deaded government spending to accordate investment and avoid added government spending to

I beliave this proposal, if cooperated in by the LADMP, would be helpful to the local governments in accomplishing their already adopted plans, would induce no growth beyond that which is already approved by the elected officials in their master planning, and provide a means to help the BLM achieve its preferred alternative stated in the RMP.

David L. Smith



Dave & Caroline Smith, Owners



RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 129 (David L. Smith, Sierra Interests, Inc.)

129-1) We are open to the two-liered exchange scenario you are proposing but it may not be practical. LADWP must first be willing to exchange the lands to us. Also the costs of processing a two-liered exchange would, of course, be twice that of a standard exchange, and this may be prohibitive. If LADWP is willing to get rid of some of their land near communities, direct purchase from them would be much more practical and less expensive than the two-tiered exchanges you suggest. However, we appreciate your suggest on and it is worth considering as an option in our exchange program subsequent to the completion of the plan. See also the general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

	ı	Dear Mr. Ferguson
130-		With reference to the R.M.P. meeting held in
150-	"	Bishop on November 39, 1930, I would like to
	Н	direct my Commenta to the Boolie Helle portion
	П	of the Impact Statement. & bring read through,
		2:1
		The Internation and
		it was clear that you and your organization
	П	out together a well thought out Implet Report
	П	The Books Hills fortion included the conserne
	Н	that I and many others, have regarding excess
	П	road - that sene that areas or know wildlife
		Consentrations
	1	There roade home been identified by the Books
		Wills Sul Committee and for the golf several years
		under your devartments surrous on an effort Clase
	П	hun made to restrict public excess This has been
	١	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
		done by proting each identified round from to the
		fall hunting sedson. The posting has had minumed
	1	effect but has idealified to the Public a need
		Submitted By:
		Name (please print)
		Neeting Location: (town) Street Address
1		Succi Addicas
		Date: City State Zip
		City State E-p

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the neeting.)

cont

130-1 130-2 Submitted By: Name (please print) Meeting Location: (town) Street Address City State

WRITTEN STATEMENT

BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

(If you wish to make a written statement, you may do so on this form. Please submit it to a BLM representative at the meeting.)

all the human actually along Cathonwood Canyon wood.
There is also the very stome some lebt. that
a trail would not follow the wide rolly low
to Cathorwood Conyon adding even more
pressure on wildlife.
The road restrictions recommended by the Broke
Hills dub Committee and suggested by a great
many individules would have little Impact on
the total number of coards and truck would be
for public access in the Godin Hills What there
restrictions would do is here an immediate and
positive impact on the Broke Will wildly frame
Zow Bodie Wills RM P has included these
Yoursens and is supported by the dub Committee
and a great many individules.
ive all ful that implementation of the Books Wills
R. M. P. at enely as possible will have a very prosting
impact on the quality of the sessure.
Submitted By: P. A. A Del Committee Merchen
Name (please print)
Meeting Location: DISALE Street Address (coun) Street Address
Date: 11/29/90

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 130 (R.A. Noles)

130-1) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and considered for the final RMP.

130-2) Please see response 79-7.

Mike Fergusen Aree Manager Bishop Recource Area Bureeu of Land Management 787 N. Mein Street Suite P Biehop, CA 93514

January 4, 1991

Dear Miket

Following are some of my personal comments about the Bishopt. Resource Mneagement Plan and Environmental Lapact Statement, My employers will be sending edditional comments. I have referred to specific pages of your text with meny of my comments; even though I only include one page number an item occurs on, my comments apply to the seem item everywhere it occurs. My comments are generally in the order that I lampershores; in the MPW, not necesserily some order of

My personal perspective is based on my knowledge of plent ecology and detaile of wildlife habitat features. I use public (BLM and FS) lands for my own recreational interests including hunting, fishing, photography, opportunities for ecilide, and observation of deesstic livestock production practices. I am not a livestock or mine owner, so I don't making the following statements from the standpoint of a reasonably well informed user of BLM managong areas.

I considered not reading the entire document when I found the statement on Page 4 (near bottom of second column) that the BLM is planning to cause "negetive impacts to livestock grazing". This statement (indicating that livestock grazing is e problem in itself) seems to set the tone of much of the

131-1

Page B-10, Cumulative Impact Summeriee. Please include details of the effects on livestock production and livestock producers. I believe that the social and economic consequences of reducing agricul tural production are far greater than the relatively few benefits (to wildlife and recreation) promised in this document.

131-2

Pags 19 - overview notes that "concern has been expressed about viewal quality; the healt for 'uidlife populations; the condition of streams and their fieh populations; and riparian hebitats." I know that concern has also been expressed about the lose of opportunities for private health of the control of

Floyd Rathbun 1/4/91

131-3

131-4

In my opinion, livestock production and the associated private proparty ownership is responsible for more than the well being of the families involved in agricultural production; in this area it is responsible for many of the landscape and cultural features that make the area structive for recreation and as a piace to live. I have seen the affects of agricultural enterprises being driven seen the affects of agricultural enterprises being driven seen the affects of agricultural enterprises being driven seen the affects of agricultural groducers have had to subdivide grazing areas for residential uses (including recreational homesites) and sell their water rights to people who take that water away from its present location. I believe that it is in the best interact of every public land user to help the livestock maintains the rangelands for wild life habitat, recreation, and all the other factures we value.

A statement that is repeated throughout the text involves acquiring private land for public use. I find that I'm very uncomfortable with this concept of private ownership of grazing rights and land being inconvenient to managers of recreation. Especially since the values preferred at this time seem to be subjective (even frivolucu) as assigned to, etc. Part of my discomfort comes from my training as a youngster. I was taught that I shall not steal and I shall not covet: I was also taught that by issuing these commendments, God ordained private ownership (so we had better take it seriously). If of like see more emphasis on would be from a "ulling seler".

Page 24 includes livestock grazing on a list of issues dropped from analysis yet the text has numerous references to reducing livestock grazing and changing grazing licenses to sheep use; apparently based on precumptions that livestock grazing is always the problem. A prosocitive approach to livestock grazing management would help reduce approach to

Page 24 has an important reference to "levels of decisions" which I agree with. There seem to be some statements in the text that contradict this "levels of decisions" idea. The text that contradict this "levels of decisions" idea. The (CDP) descriptions. I understand that the DPC concept was originally developed by the RISC committee as an enlargement of the techniques of defining Ecological Sites (Range Sites) the RISC committee as an enlargement of the techniques of defining Ecological Sites (Range Sites) the RISC committee as an enlargement of the techniques of defining Ecological Sites (Range Sites) the RISC committee as an enlargement of the techniques of the RISC committee and the RISC concepts into an agreement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into amangement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into an agreement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into an agreement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into an agreement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into an agreement activities. But termed the CDC concepts into a second concepts and activities activities. But termed the CDC concepts into a second concepts and activities activities. But the CDC concepts are activities and activities activities activities activities. But the CDC concepts are activities act

I suggest that the DPCs developed for the Bishop RMP be respecific Ecological Sites (or Range Sites) and that the DPC
descriptions not be included in the RMP. Portions of
several DPCs seem to reflect what wildlife biologists would
like to provide as habitat for animals without adequate
reference to site capability (parhaps these areas could be
labelled "wildlife biologist habitate"). I also suggest
that all references to the specific activity level
decisions specific activity level

Floyd Rathbun

Nouldn't it be consistent with the discussion of RMP purposes to simply state that DPCs as defined by the Vegatation Management Initiative memos (and any subsequent terminology) will be used in activity level decisions? This would instruct managers to use the DPC concept and allow development of DPC descriptions on a site specific basis.

I understand from the introduction that this RMP has been prepared to formulate management policy for certain activities that were not included in previous planning documents. Vet the contents of the RMP give me of viildlife habitat are taking pracedence over other land uses. There is little evidence that having what comeone considers optimum (100% of value) wildlife habitat is always necessary. He can likely be seen to be sufficiently and the seen content of th

Page 28-31 define several terms that have recently become important in resource management. Congratulations for effectively using GIS technology. The Senio Byway designation seems like a useful public information technique.

Two designations that seem to be evolving into restrictive sessifications that I find objectionable are Mild and Seanic Rivers and ACCEs. I liked the original use of these designations, but now they seem to have become a form of the control of th

131-6

DWD COMMENTS

1/4/91

Page 4

more than to protect outstanding values and they should be removed from the RMP.

Page 36-37 contain the tables of area-wide summary of 131-A decisions. These two pages are any well prepared end very much appreciated for their usefulness. I would like you to add a reference to Ecological Status or Range Condition to the portions of this table dealing with vegetation; this would indicate how the goals for vegetation are technically rentietic

Floyd Rathbun

- Considering the details of BLM policy and guidelines on 131-9 pages 25-27. the Alternative Descriptions, and certain economic facts. I conclude that Alternative 2 should have been labeled the "Preferred Alternative". There is a tremendous amount of restriction to use of BLM lands by policy and regulation; the enforcement of these policies should provide all the benefits that Alternative 3 & 4 can be expected to provide with a fraction of the cost. Recent studies show that Forest Service end BLM expenditures for recreation and wildlife activities are very high and the cash returns for those activities are very low. In comparison, actuel costs of livestock grazing management ere lower than recreation coets and the cash returns are proportionally much greater. Furthermore, livestock management practices generally benefit wildlife populations end often enhance recreational values at no cost to those users. Management for commodity production, within policy and present levels of technology, would seem like a much better use of government money. In my opinion, Alternative 2 could be made the equal of 3 & 4 by adding references to a few technical features such as the DPC concept.
- Starting on page 40, the term "protection" is used in 131-10 reference to plant communities/wildlife habitat. What does "protection" mean in the context of your management? Protection from what or whom? Perhaps you could use "properly manage" or a similar term?

Page 40 includes a description of the present sage grouse management policy of "protection" within two miles of a lek. When this two-mile concept was first used, it was not intended to be a cook-book management standard. Current technical information should allow managers to make much more specific decisions on a basis of knowledge of sage grouse life cycles. For example low sagebrush plant communities are the preferred nesting habitat for the birds which indicates that big sagebrush plant communities and meadows within two miles of leks are not of particular importance during the birds nesting period. This two-mile management standard could be eliminated from the RMP document.

RMP COMMENTS Floyd Rathbun 1/4/91

Also on page 40, the description of Alternative 2 says that 131-11 land uses would have few restrictions. As discussed above. this statement is very misleading and should be replaced with a statement that indicates that present BLM policy restricts uses.

Page 5

- Page 46 (Alt. 3 and later in Alt. 4) includes the 131-12 "protection" term that implies no other uses and several sage grouse habitat statements. A statement of causing 60% of sagebrush habitat to be optimum for sagebrush sounds like a DPC goal: is it realistic and attainable? What is the purpose of a 40% utilization limit within 2 miles of loks? I know of no benefits to sage grouse from this management of so-called sagebrush-bitterbrush vegetation, so I suspect the purpose is to restrict livestock grazing and this statement should be eliminated. The RMP restriction of 30% utilization of bitterbrush by livestock (everywhere) does no particular good for the plants. Why is it there? Managers of big game habitat use periodic heavy cattle browsing on bitterbrush to "prune" the plants to a more useful form for use by deer. This 30% utilization restriction seems to eliminate the opportunity for progressive management of bitterbrush stands and should be removed from the RMP.
- species of plants deserving consideration as threatened or endangered seem to thrive on areas that have been disturbed. Their greatest abundance seems to be in seral plant communities. This is another place where the term "protection" should be replaced with proper management.

"Protection" of sensitive plant habitats, candidate species,

listed species, aspen groves, etc. worries me. Many of the

Prohibition of water diversions seems pointless for the 131-14 Bridgenort and Bodie Hills areas since all of the existing water seems to be allocated. As an RMP quideline, this restriction might prevent construction of needed livestock or wildlife management facilities. I tend to favor the very specific prohibition of ground water pumping to "mine" water for use in urban areas.

> Page 63-65 - Enhancement of dispersed recreation sounds tarrific if it means that dispersed recreation is the form of recreation that management decisions will be based on.

There is the little problem of extremely concentrated 131-15 recreation in the Bodie area. The VRM 1 standards for the entire Bodie Bowl are much to restrictive in my opinion as is the prohibition of shooting in the Bodie Bowl. Would you consider providing a new location for the Bodie townsite adjacent to Highway 395 and encouraging the California State Park folks to move those old buildings to a location that would be more convenient (and more safe) for their tourists to visit? That's one action which would enhance dispersed recreation.

131-13

RMP COMMENTS 1/4/91

Page 6

Floyd Rathbun I believe that the ACEC designation of Bodie Bowl and the 131-16

131-18

131-19

entire Potato Peak/Bodie Mt./Rough Creek areae dilutes the value of ACEC designation and shouldn't be a part of this

Changing class of livestock from cattle to sheep seems 131-17 arbitrary. It also is very unlikely that cattle operators could switch to sheep operations for the Bodie Hills area without suffering severe business losses. That statement of mandatory changes from licensed cattle use to sheep use should be removed from the RMP.

> Fuelwood and Christman tree harvests are a good idea. I especially like the plan to coordinate harvest areas with wildlife habitat improvement needs. The prohibition of removing dead wood doesn't seem cepecially valuable in Pinyon/Juniper woodlands or Aepen stande since much of the dead wood would have very low value as fuelwood and wouldn't be taken anyway. Prescribed burning as another form of manipulation of plant communities is also a sound management practice. Both need to be completed with full awareness of Ecological Sites and notential for planned changes in vegetation.

Page 96 - Impacts of Alternatives in Bodie Hille area include reduced wildlife populations in Alt 1 & 2 and increased wildlife populations under Alternatives 3 & 4. It would help if you could describe why these increased wildlife nonulations are an important management coal.

I don't agree with your conclusions about livestock grazing (within current policy and regulations) having the above affects. It is a historic fact that mule deer and sage grouse populations included much higher numbers of animale in the past when livestock numbers were also greater. livestock grazing was much less controlled, and ecological status of the ecological eites was lower than present. Since there is no convincing evidence that livestock grazing at its present level will cause reduction of wildlife populations. I would like the reference to livestock grazing removed from these types of statements.

There may be some correlation of high levels of vehicle use 131-20 with reduced wildlife populations, I'd be interested in knowing what facts support this idea. Is there some correlation with the incidence of peaching, or is something else likely to affect wildlife populations?

> I have read very convincing etudies showing that predation commonly prevente adequate levels of reproduction among the wildlife epecies of concern in this RMP. Birde such as ravens and maggies can destroy most sage hen nests, covotes can literally prevent promotorn and mule deer fawn euryival.

DMP COMMENTS Floyd Rathburi 1/4/91

Page 7

Please include a predator control position in the 131-21 alternatives for management.

Still on pages 96-99, sensitive species are expected to be 131-22 extirpated in Alternatives 1 & 2 but this will not occur in Alt 3 & 4. If this is true then I'm real happy that populations of the same species occur in other geographic areas so there will still be some of the plants and animals comewhere. As mentioned above, I suspect that the some of these species need disturbance of plant communities to provide habitat needs; sources of disturbance include construction (mining), recreation, livestock grazing. disease, wildfire, etc. Alternatives 3 & 4 may not be as beneficial as Alternatives 1 & 2 for some species; if these decisions are going to cause such irrevocable changes, who is going to decide which species should survive?

> I believe that current technical knowledge for range management can provide the improvements in trout habitat attributed to Alternatives 3 & 4, without the expensive regulation involved in those alternatives. In fact, current Ri M planning documents call for more intensive management of livestock, recreation, mining etc.; Alternatives 1 & 2 should also provide all of the benefits ascribed to Alt. 3 &

There is an apparent conflict between recreational use of 131-23 aspen stands and mule deer fawning needs for aspen stands. Alternative 3& 4 are intend to cause considerable growth of understory vegetation in aspen stands (moetly aspen regeneration). The primary purpose is to increase quality of the stands for deer reproduction. Aspen stands are also elated for recreational camping sites and the management is limited to exclusion of cattle from the etands. In some stands (not all) exclusion of livestock will result in more reproduction of sepen and the development of a brushy understory. I haven't seen a camper select a dense stand of sepen suckers as a camp site, they seem to prefer the open etands of mature trees. Please explain how this conflict will be recoived. Will mule deer fawning in senen stands be considered more important than camositee?

> It might help to consider how mule deer successfully drop fawns in areae that have no trees along streams. According to literature I've read, mule deer fawn in any area that has water nearby for the doe (within 1/4 mile) and enough cover near the ground to hide a newborn fawn.

Page 120 indicates that someone has decide that the mine operation planned for the Bodie Bluff area would be 131-24 "incompatible" with the Bodie State Park management philosophy. I've had two opportunities to visit the potential mine eite and hear explanations of the planned development. The mine operators are carefully planning

RMP COMMENTS

1/4/91

Page B

131-24 cont.

Floyd Rathbun

their development to avoid damaging park values. My conclusion is that the mine development would actually enhance the values of the park by providing a contrast between new and old mining techniques.

131-25

Page 129 the etream reaches described as degraded in the firet column could also be degraded due to naturally occurring runoff: :please add that possibility to the causes.

131-26

Page 129, second column indicates exceedive levels of mercury in Bodie Creek. If management to improve trout habitat is successful, will the trout be eafe for animals and humane to eat? Is there a need for an extensive cleanup of the atresm channel?

131-27

Also on page 129, a statement that removal of vegetation within a waterehed initiates sediment transport is a little misleading. A problem does exiet if the extent of vegetative cover removal results in the soils being more exposed to erosion. Improper management such as poorly planned recreational construction, does cause massive eroeion as vegetation is completely removed from sites. Moderate liveetock grazing, especially when a planned grazing eystem is followed, is not likely to result in accelerated erosion. Some soil movement occurs naturally. much of it is limited to movement of soil for short dietances.

In this etatement there is an attempt to associate cediment generated from a waterehed with gully formation and with eediment levele in several Bodie Hille streams. I find the paragraph is confusing. Perhaps explaining some of the epecific causes of erosion throughout waterchede would help. For example, Bodie Hille is subject to very intense storms with massive amounte of runoff which is a natural cause of etream eedimente. Also several of the streams mentioned exist within gullies formed a long time ago. Any gully will continue to grade and become wider in the natural process of stabilizing banks; sediment in such streams doesn't reflect a problem of waterehed condition, it simply indicates the gully has not stabilized vet.

131-28

Page 149 includes statemente that livestock grazing hae adversely effected qualities of etreams, aspen stands, and watershed areae. While these dramatic statements are generally true, I feel they are precented in a misleading way. My observations in the Bodie Hille include: most of the area's upland range sites are in Good or Excellent range condition, this means the plant communities are protecting soils from erosion over most of the area (there are exceptione euch as Pinyon-Juniper invasion of range sites). Areas of damages to etreams seem to be the result of both past uncontrolled livestock grazing, mining development, and

RMP COMMENTS Floyd Rathbun

1/4/91 Page 9

131-2R cont.

recreational uses. Present livestock operations are still causing a few problems and the livestock owners are recognizing this and seeking solutions. Please change this and eimilar etatemente to indicate what livestock caused problems are in fact being caused by the livestock present today. I'm not suggesting that the unestiefactory conditions along stream banks should be ignored if they were caused in the distant past: I am asking that the same qualifications that were provided for mining and recreational vehicles be applied to livestock.

131-29

Page 151 includes a statement that consitive plant opecies are being impacted by livestock, wildlife, recreation, and mineral development. The same paragraph also save the populatione are etable. As mentioned above, I'm concerned with the potential impacte of changes in management that result in "protection" of these species and would like you to discuse thie.

Page 239-243 contain the DPC descriptions that I discussed 131-30 early in this letter. Using the DPC descriptions as a way to include livestock forage utilization restrictions is inappropriate for a DPC and should be eliminated. Please coneider limiting the RMP discussion of DPCs to an instruction that this concept will be used as a management tool and the actual DPC descriptions will be developed within activity plans for site epecific needs.

> Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your RMP/EIS. Please don't heeitate to ask for explanations of anything I've written.

Sincerely.

Flord W Rather Floyd W. Rathbun P.O. Box 1612 Fallon, Nevada 89406

Work Phone (702) 423-5124 Home Phone (702) 423-4267

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 131 (Floyd Rathbun)

131-1) Grazing was not shown in the Impact Summary Table because for the most part, grazing was not an issue in this document. Grazing issues were addressed in the grazing EISs written in 1981 and 1983, and current management follows the preferred alternative of these EISs and the subsequent MFP decisions. The Alternative 4 decisions are considered a fine-tuning of current management. See the 'Grazing' general response (p.5-11).

The impacts on livestock grazing are described on pp.200-202 of the draft RMP. These impacts have been revised in the 'grazing' section of Chapter 4.

- 131-2) The BLM is well aware of the interest in grazing on public land, both for and against it. The BLM considers livestock grazing to be part of the multiple use concept and will manage grazing within this concept.
- 131-3) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 131-4) The decision to encourage a change from cattle to sheep grazing has been removed from the final RMP.

Livestock grazing is not the sole factor behind the present conditions of the key management areas within the RMP, but grazing is a contributing factor. Certainly the CRMPs being used for the Bodie Hills represent a proactive approach.

- 131-5) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 131-6) It is our opinion that the area-wide and management area Alternative 4 decisions reflect a proper mix of use and conservation of the natural resources in the resource area. We direct your attention to pp.24-26 of the draft plan, regarding the adoption of prior decisions and guidelines which are part of this plan.

- 131-7) Rough and Atastra Creeks minimally meet the eligibility criteria under the Wild and Scenic River Act. Restoration is necessary to attain the biological potential of both stream systems.
- 131-8) The RMP decisions do not refer to changes in ecological condition. The decisions involving vegetation are related to habitat needs and may or may not result in changes in ecological condition.
- 131-9) Thank you for your comment.
- 131-10) Yearlong and seasonal protection are defined in the glossary.

Your concern regarding the use of the 2-mile radius for protection around sage grouse leks has been considered in the final plan.

- 131-11) The statement does not refer to "present BLM policy." It is describing the Custodial Management Alternative which would be less restrictive than present policy.
- 131-12) In our opinion the 60% criterion for sage grouse habitat is attainable.

The 40% use level has been removed from the final plan. Please refer to the final area-wide decision concerning livestock use within 2 miles of sage grouse leks.

Bitterbrush is a primary forage species for seven deer herds which use lands in this resource area as winter range, summer range or migration routes. The ability of mule deer to survive the winter and to produce and recruit fawns into the population is largely determined by the quality and volume of bitterbrush present in those areas. In our opinion, 30% use of annual growth on bitterbrush will not measurably after production and survivorship of mule deer.

131-13,14) Your comments have been considered in the final plan.

- 131-15) Please see general Bodie response at the beginning of this chapter. In reference to your comment about the shooting prohibition in the Bodie Bowl, it has been modified in the final RMP to consider a boundary that is more practical.
- 131-16) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 131-17) The decision to change the type of use from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP.
- 131-18) We appreciate your concern with our intended management for the pinyon-juniper and aspen vegetation types. Relatining down wood will aid, in our opinion, in the production of insects and other invertebrates which provide a food base for ground foraging birds, mineral cycling, nitrogen fixation, and habitat for witdlife.
- 131-19) Increased wildlife populations are possible, in our opinion, since several of the vegetation communities are missing or have diminished structural components in the site which would otherwise provide nesting, brooding and foraging habitat capable of supplying a greater abundance of individuals and species.

Your comment concerning livestock grazing has been considered in the final plan.

- 131-20) Our professional judgement and field observations lead us to believe that there is a correlation between wildlife impacts and vehicle use during the hunting season. Additionally, poaching has contributed to loss of mule deer and pronghorn.
- 131-21) A statement concerning predator control has not been 'notuced in first document that a need for predator removal exists. The environmental analysis process then determines if predator removal would cause unacceptable impacts to other resources. A decision record for the specific predator removal proposal is then issued.

- 131-22) The question of species survivorship should not be a point of concern given the various decisions in Alternatives 3 and 4 which address an improvement in habitat quality.
- 131-23) Since the desired plant community management prescribes that 50% of the existing aspen stands meet RMP objectives, some aspen stands may be left with openings for camping. These areas will be determined at the activity plan level which is outside the scope of this RMP.
- 131-24) Your comment has been noted and documented.
- 131-25) Our exclosures on other streams in the resource area show that with a proper quality and abundance of vegetative bank cover, the channel is able to maintain its conformation at flows which exceed channel capacity.
- 131-26) We will continue to conduct water quality monitoring on Bodie Creek and institute measures, if necessary, to ensure public safety. We suggest the same concern be expressed by the livestock operator in that cattle regularly utilize the portions of upper Bodie Creek where mercury was detected.
- 131-27) The errata section of the final plan notes that removal of vegetation "contributes to," rather than "initiates," sediment transport.

Stream sediments contribute to gultying in the following manner: Sediment laden waters can aggrade a stream channel which changes channel slope. A change in slope or shape which increases water velocity increases the amount of sediment a stream can carry. A stream will establish the slope which will provide just the velocity of water necessary to transport its sediment load. The transport and eventual deposition of sediments alters channel integrity. Constant change in channel slope and shape can either cut a new channel or degrade the existing channel.

- 131-28) We recognize that past livestock grazing caused a change in the quality and productivity (plant and animal) of overall watersheds in the Bodie Hills. However, current grazing practices continue to prevent measurable improvement of watershed conditions over much of the Bodie Hills.
- 131-29) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 131-30) The DPC descriptions, with some modifications, remain in the final document. There are no specific livestock utilization standards in the DPCs. Where a residual herbaceous plant height of 6" was described the parameter now says 4-6".

1/14/91

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N Main St, Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

Mr. Perguson.

132 -

I am writing to provide comments on your draft Resource Management Plan. I disagree strongly with your choice of a preferred alternative. Instead, I support Alternative 3, the natural resources enhancement alternative, but with the Areas must be explicitly sanaged as wilderness and their roadless character maintained. Your own wilderness quidelines require this. Only Congress can change the status of WSAs, and until Congress decides on the status of WSAs, and until Congress decides on the status of WSAs, and until Congress decides on the status of WSAs in Your resource area, you must manage them as

Alternative 3 should also be improved by adding all BLM lands adjacent to Bodie State Park to the 30,000 already withdrawn from sinceral development in the alternative. Only a clear responsibility to protect this historical to have a clear responsibility to protect this historical to determine those areas which are suffering from over-grazing over-grazed areas should be closed to future grazing until they are completely recovered. Finally, Alternative 3 could be improved by placing greater restrictions on 670 was coloriously, GNWs cannot be allowed in WSAs. But they should be also be allowed in WSAs. But they should be also be allowed in WSAs. But they should be also be allowed in WSAs. But they should be also were seen when they could

Thank you for considering my views when you prepare the final plan. A modified Alternative 3 would be a good plan.

Sincerely.

Robert J. McLaughlin 980 Peralta Ave Albany, CA 94706

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 132

"Letter 132" represents 34 letters similar to the one shown on this 132) page. They were apparently generated by a protection oriented flyer of unknown origin. Thirty of the letters urged us to protect the roadless character of all wilderness study areas (see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process). 25 letters supported withdrawal of all BLM lands adjacent to Bodie State Park (See the General Response to concerns about Bodie), 27 urged assessment of range condition and restriction or elimination of grazing in impacted areas (See the General Response to grazing concerns), 28 urged prohibiting off road vehicle use in various key areas (See the General Response to OHV concerns), 27 support designation of the ten streams that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River status and encourage the acquisition of adjacent private lands (See response to Letter 1). and 30 support Alternative 3. The authors of these letters are listed in Appendix 7.

790 FELLER AU SAN JOSE, CA 95127 (408) 258-6063

DEAR MR. FERGUSON

133-1

AS A SOON TO BE EX-MEMBEL OF "PESERT SURVIVORS" I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLETS MY SUPPORT FOR THE BLM MANACEMENT PLAN,

I AM THEOD OF PSEUDU EUUNOMAGUTALISTS UNU ARE AND FOUCCO. ATOMATY TITLES AND "USEREUD MANAGEMENT ELERIS" THAT USE THAT OFFICE STATUS THAT AND THAT FALLY MEMBERS TO UDICE ARABINST THINGS THE FORTH THINGS THE FASTER AND UTILE ARABINST THINGS AND UTILE ARABINST THINGS AND UTILE ARABINST THINGS AND UTILE ARABINST THINGS

I AM CONVINCED THE BLM MANAGES A
BETTL EDVENTO AND MOCE INFORMED
THAN ARE AVIN CLEATT. THE BLM'S RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT (ROGRAMS OFFL A BROWER AND
FAILER. USE OF POBLIC LAWS THAN SELF
EDVITLED "ENVIRONMENTAL" GENES.

AGNU, I THINK BLM NAS AND WILL.
CONTINUE TO EHECTIVELY MADRE ITS AREAS,
AND MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT BLM SHOULD
GET BENTER FUNDING. TO DO THEIR JEB

SINCERLY,
- ALSO A DESERT LOVER
MIKE SOTA

DUC. 1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 133 (Mike Sota)

133-1) Your comment is noted and appreciated.

PC Box 265 Big Pine, CA 93513

Ares Monager BLM. Bishop

10 January 1991

Donn Stri

Following are only a few of my concerns and questions concerning the Bishop Resource Management Flan and Environmental Impact Statement. The comments refer only to the area between Owens Lake to Benton, there was not enough time to deal with the remainder.

134-1

WITHDRAWALS & LAND DISPOSALS: Revoking all watershed withdrawals could be the beginning of the end for protection of many area as more and more land is sought by county and private parties. HLM lands are public lands and should not be relinquished. The annual amendment process would open it all up for future disposals. Such revocation would have major cumulative impacts which are not dealt with in the Plan.

Fg 27 states that "transfers of Bureau land to other agencies will be limited to email and isolated parcele", yet many of the suggested disposals are not isolated and are very large, one to twelve square miles (from Cwens Lake to Benton, over 20% are over a source mile in size). I do not want to see Public Lands containing natural habitat turned over to private ownership. Watershed needs continued protection from development. Once land is privatized the public has no voice against habitat destruction, increased numning. etc. Please keep the existing withdrawals except, if possible, for just a few of the smallest and most isolated parcels (disposal of the several equare miles NE of Bramlette Ranch would be a very destructive act).

134-2

What is meant on Fg 49, Alt.4, "Bureau lands wall not be available for disposal under the agricultural land laws"?

134-3

Pg 199-200, Alt.2, says the dune community will remain intact and productive, yet Fg 162 states "Bureau land disposals for agriculture development have the potential to eliminate a large portion of the candidate dune weevil habitat", Which is it to be?

134-4

Fg 271 refers to site-specific has before disposal of BLM margels. Will the public have involvement or notification or will it be the usual negative declaration?

I only had time to look at the Plan from Owens Lake to Benton, and would have liked to visit some of the areas suggested for disposal but the comment period was too short. Following are some of my concerns on just a few of the lands considered for disposal; 1. Sanddunes are exceedingly limited in the Owens Valley area

134-5

and they contain specialized dune invertebrates of scientific value. Disposals should not be done before surveys to pinpoint dune boundaries so that dames can remain in BLM control. Two dune eystems involved in the potential disposals: the northeast end of Cwens Lake, and the area about 4 miles north of Benton (contered around Sec 8).

134-6

2. What are the plans for the area at the mouth of Mazourka Canyon? If agriculture, where will the water be obtained? From the springs above, or from groundwater pumping (which the east side of Cwens Valley has been free of)? This area

is the north end of the distribution of Larges in Owene 184-6 Valley. Grececte ringe are present. Agriculture use there 134-13 Cont cont. would destroy nearly all of this population; it should remain under HLM control. 3. Many disposal parcels have water on or near the surface, Now 134-7 that DWF has destroyed nearly all such habitat (springs, wet mesdowe, subsurface water, etc) on the Valley floor, the little bit remaining should be given full protection and none 134-14 of it turned over to private marties. This should be made a part of the Management Flan. 4. Many of the original dirt roads to remote areas, such as to 134-6 the canyons of east slope White Mountains, were lost when lands were taken over by slialfs growers. Any disposals should be done in such a way as to retain rights-of-way for users of such roads. 134-15 TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR: I prefer no E-W corridor here, and saw no real pressing need demonstrated in the Flan for bringing power to 124-9 California from And through central Nevada, Of the 3 cerridors described, the Pizons route arestee the lesst impact to vieusl wildlife, and vegetation resources. If EMF is of concern to be selected what a the populations such as tule elk calving areas. Also, the Soldier Canyon area to virtually untouched by human intrusion and to free of impacts from grazing by cattle, sheep, horses or burnos. And there are sensitive resources that lie to the east that the BLM Flan does not address at all. FUELWOOD: I have seen the effects of harvesting other than 134-10 down/dead wood in Nevada, Fleare do not allow harvesting of live trees for any purpose; down and dead only. (Fg 77, Alt.4, does not state whether or not it will be down/dead only). 134-16 WILD & SCENIC RIVERS! The plan does not state why so few creeks 184-11 were chosen for this category. I think there are ceveral others that have just we good or better qualifications for selection. DESIRED FLANS COMMUNITIES: Some of the DFC gnale seem to entail manipulation to "improve" beyond the natural state in order to produce more deer, etc. And, though stated manife times in the Fiam that 134-12 primary regetation damage to from cattle grazing, grazing will recover withubily no limitations (Eg 195: "Albertan recourses" to). The Flam never ristee how "DFG grais" are to be achieved, Will it involve controlled burning? Herbitoides? Thinning? Encouraging one 134-17 plant enectes to grow at the expense of others? What exactly will be done to "increase habitat diversity" on riperian areas? What does (Fg 86) "Meet DFG goals on 5.120 agree of pinyon-juniper sreas to improve habitat for mule deer, blackbear, and cavity nesting species" mean? This is for the South Invo MA; there are no black bears in the Invo #ts (or is it planned to introduce them?). The same for the Benton MA (Pg 77). WILDLIFE: "Wildlife" throughout the Flan refere primarily to a 134-13 handful of enecific epecies; comething needs to be said about complete wildlife communities and for divergity of all wildlife. At top left of Pg 77, the Flan appears to exhibit a prejudice sgainst amphibians. What is meant by "Develop new channels for listed species" 7(Ex 85). Why "reintroduce" bighorn sheep to the Inyo Mts when at least 2

Among many other unreplained atstements: "Coordinate with CDMAG
the introduction of threatened and endancered species".

I've seem the dawage to natural sorting, built take where care fish
nave been placed (Fish Slough, sarm Sorting, little Hot Greek), and
I'do not like to see more coping sittered for this purpose at the
full study of even the slore-organisms should be sade at three
castl and westly-disturbed phainter. Otherwise it connot be called
hattat "improvement" or "enhancement" as proclaimed in the Finn.

I was said to see concern expressed for nominational bounds though

Invo Mts. native gene pools would be affected.

herds already exist there? If the new sheep come from outside the

I was glad to see concern expressed for apringingly populations, the embeds peecked Principuting prightly, which occurs only on danger of becoming extinct, priticularly if disposal of surrounding EMR land leads to increase a surrounding EMR land leads to increase a surrounding EMR land leads to increase a surrounding EMR land, and the surrounding EMR land to the surrounding EMR land, and the surrounding EMR land to the surrounding EMR land, and the sur

GRAING: Too many terms are not defined in the Flan or else refer to other documents. Standard Correcting Foroclares have ever often not been implemented, for example Fg 259 (0.9, & 0.10.), Monitoring of ciparina and other recourses must be increased over present levels. Fg 194-159 state: that, for all the alternatives, riportered in the contraction of the standard for the contraction of the

AGUATIC AND RIBATIAN: Desirtons on all the Alternatives (Fg. 20-50) indicate notaction of all relation needs. This mat include properties of the properties

I agree with the ristements in the Flom that restrictions on discions and etrong limitations on hydroelectric development are necessary to protect squatto & riberian resources. And protection of soring recourses from grazing must be enforced as per Standard Operating Procedures (Fg. 269, 0.9).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this RMP,

Verlam Simbani

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 134 (Derham Giuliani)

- 134-1) See general responses for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8) and for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 134-2) BLM lands which are identified for disposal could be only be disposed of by exchange, sale, Recreation and Public Purpose patent, or mineral patent, and they are not available for disposal via Desert Land Entry or Indian Allotment.
- 134-3) In the final plan, dune habitat will be retained in Bureau ownership.
- 134-4) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 134-5) Dune areas are not proposed for disposal at Owens Lake in the final plan. Dune areas north of Benton would be inventoried for species of management concern prior to a final determination on retention or disposal.
- 134-6) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 134-7) An environmental assessment will be conducted on any parcels proposed for disposal in the final plan. Should resources of a special management concern be found at any of the proposed disposals, the analysis will determine if the site should remain under Bureau administration.
- 134-8) Rights-of-way for public access can be retained where necessary. See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 134-9) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the Need Analysis section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16) and response 100-182, concerning the need for a new east-west corridor designation and the difference in environmental impacts between the three areas considered.

No concern was raised during the public scoping and environmental analysis phase of the corridor study that indicated any concerns regarding potential impacts of EMF to wildlife populations; therefore, it was not addressed in this study. Any potential impacts of the effects of prolonged human exposure to high levels of EMF may or may not be applicable to wildlife species. See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study.

Concerning impacts to the natural values of the Soldier Canyon Alternative Area, see response 105-1.

Concerning potential impacts to lands outside the study area, see the Impact to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.

- 134-10) Harvesting of fuelwood will be for dead and down wood. Please refer to response 93-6.
- 134-11) The eligibility determinations were made for all creeks in the resource area. The creeks that were not eligible failed to meet the criteria. Please see Chapter 1 and Appendix 2 of the draft RMP for more information.
- 134-12) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 134-13) Please refer to the goal statements for the aspen, riparian and pinyon-juniper DPC descriptions on pp.242 and 243 of the draft plan for wildlife diversity. We believe many of our Alternative 4 decisions could provide secondary benefits of improved natural community quality and wildlife diversity.

No prejudice against any one species is intended in any of the decisions. Proper biologic inventories of springs, and any other areas proposed as a site to introduce listed species, would be conducted along with analysis of potential project effects on other resources.

The reference to "new channels" on p.83 has been removed from the final document.

Bighorn sheep introduction to the west side of the Inyo Mountains would only occur if analysis of habitat information and coordination with California Department of Fish and Game indicated a reasonable chance of success. Other factors, like the need to place artificial water sources in the area, would be determinants of whether the project would be feasible. Any sheep selected for introduction would come from populations considered acceptable by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Concerning reintroduction of threatened or endangered species to former habitat, our Master Memorandum of Understanding (CA-192) with California notes that the Bureau agrees to notify and confer with the Department of Fish and Game for recommendations on the project specific management of state listed species.

- 134-14) The resource area policy concerning use of natural springs for introduction of federally listed species is to conduct a thorough inventory of the aquatic fauna prior to fish introduction. Our working approach is to not actually introduce fish into the natural spring environment in the future, but to construct an artificial "pond" nearby and use the least amount of water necessary to establish a flow-through system which returns the water downstream of the sorting source.
- 134-15) A final plan SOP provides for species management in a manner to avoid the need for state or federal listing. Before introduction of P. aardahli to Bureau land could be approved, consultation and recommended management would be sought from the California Department of Fish and Game and other professionals in the field of aquatic biology.
- 134-16) The incorporation of other documents into the RMP would result in an unmanageable document of tremendous size, therefore these documents are referenced. See the "Grazing" general response.

Standard Operating Procedures are necessary and are not intended to be overlooked. Compliance to C.9. is an ongoing

process; the most recent exclosures are at Indian Springs, Stringer Meadow, Cottonwood Artesian, Reservoir, Four Way Meadow, and North Potato Peak. Spring exclosures are considered a last resort due to the possible impacts to wildlife (tence strikes) and the high maintenance costs. Compliance to C.10. has been lax and will improve.

Currently monitoring is being done on grazing, aspen groves, streams, deer winter range, sage grouse leks, Wildemess Study Areas, recreation, OHV, and minerals. Many of the RMP decisions will be implemented by activity plans, and these plans all have monitoring sections. Please see "monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP. An area-wide "monitoring" support need has been added to Chapter 2.

The impacts and the results cited refer to riparian resources on a region-wide basis. The BLM portion of impacts and results are stated as such for each alternative.

134-17) Please see response 134-14.

January 14, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson, Area Manager USDA Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

RE: Comments on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Retource Concepts, Inc. (RCI), a private resource counting firm based in Cannon City, Newda, assimilate the following comments regarding the Bishop Recome Assagement Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/RES) on behalf of F.M. Fulstone, Inc., F.M. Inc., and the Flying M Ranch. The primary concern of these permittees in that this document represents a lock of supportable data on which to base the management decisions contained. Further concerns include the level at which may of the decisions were made and the apparently specialise nature in which they were made with the apparently specialise nature in which they were made with the apparently specialise nature in which they were made with the special properties and is confident that this and either impact from affected interests will be included or adoption.

This letter is organized in the following manner: introduction, comments on general issues, comments on specific issues referenced by RMP sumber, areas of specement, and conclusions and recommendations. The page numbers relief reflect one reference in the RMP/EIS but apply to the same item wherever it appears in the document. Specific comments are included in order of their reference to the RMP/EIS has the order of important order.

RCTs forement area of concern is that the Dorth Bishop RMP/IIIS catabilistic land use and management discords without specific justification. As specified in 40 CRF 16/10-3, e it is RCTs understanding that an RMP/IIIS is meant to be a tool in which guidelines and general objectives are established with public participation. Specific sections should be planned through coordinated and integrated resource management processes at the allowant and/or activity planning level. If specific section are set at a level high in the planning blenterty, innovation, flexibility, and creativity are calcinated from lower planning opportunities. There should be 3 levels of planning for this Resource Acre: the Land User Planning (bestern), there is and discovering rule-level plans, the should be 3 levels of planning for this Resource as the additionent management plans (AMP) and the belieut management plans (IMMP); and low-level of the should be a set of the should be the resource management in the innovation that all options are left one of the consideration by additionary flammager, it is innovated that all options are left one of the consideration by additionary flammager, it is innovated that all options are left one of the consideration by additionary flammager.

Mr. Michael Ferguson, Area Manager January 14, 1991 Page 2

135-2

Resource management is an art and a science. This document does not provide documentation of the science, pet is a restrictive to the point that it removes the measurgist apportunity to apply the art of management in the resource area. For example, a preliminary anapying of proposed areas of special management concern war does on one e0,000 are exhibitent. This ampling revealed that price in the second of the second of the second of the second of the interpretation of the second of the interpretation of the second of the second of the second of the leaves very little room for mid from the second of the challenge of the second of the secon

Planning, management, and monitoring are better approaches to use in reaching objectives than reductions and probabilistion of uses. If uses are reduced or cliniated, the relationship of these reductions to objectives should be direct with documented rationals related to intainability. The impacts of resultant changes should be analyzed and fully discussed for public disclosure. As pointed out in the following questions and comments, the current RMP/EIS is recrevely lacking in these seess.

GENERAL ISSUES

RMP/FIS Alternatives

1

135-3

RCI disagrees with the statement that "each of the proposed alternatives describes a realistic and achievable mix of management actions and land use allocations" (pg 38). The restrictions set down by this RMP/EIS compromise" results can attainable by recenting a relutation in which proper management of the resource is impossible. Management "gridlock" may occur due to a removal of options and flexibility available to the resource measure.

- The No Action/Continuation of Present Management Alternative (Alternative 1) could be a workable alternative on this Resource Area. The resource is in good condition and is improving. With continued good management, improvements can continue to take place. This bas been a "realistic and achievable" management plan over the fast several years.
- The Custodial Management Alternative (Alternative 2) is probably not a workable alternative.
 There is not enough consideration of all of the multiple uses included in this alternative.
- The Natural Resource Enhancement Alternative (Alternative 3) does not appear to be a viable alternative considering applicable laws, valid estating uses, private land inclusions, commodity demands, and needs of the local communities. This alternative fails to make consideration for all faceling.
- The Intent of the Preferred Alternstive (Alternstive 4) should be a win/win situation for all, recognizing that more intensive management will require additional inputs from the BLM and permittees. As described in the draft RMP/EIS Alternstive 4 is not a "reasonable and attainable" plan. For Alternstive 4 to be reasonable, a cooperative planning approach should educide what additional management will be implemented to reach multiple use objectives.

The stated purpose of the preferred alternative is to reflect a best estimate of multiple use management. However, commodity production appears to receive less consideration than non-

RESOURCE CONCEPTS INC. 340 N. Minnesota . Carson City, Neveda 89703 . (702) 883

(35-1

135-3 cont. commodity uses. Effective liveatorly grazing can be used to attain wildlife habitat objectives. The preferred alternative should disease the positive whose of Herencker grazing and propose a plan that provides for carrying the generalized AUMs as a result of better management. There is no livear that the provides of the cost of all alternatives the provides of Wall alternative for funding the provides of the cost of all alternatives the provides of Wall alternative for funding the case of all the provides of the provides of the provides of the provides of the cost of all alternatives the provides of Wall alternative for funding the catalisation?

Desired Plant Communities

135-4

Basing grazing management decisions on DPC goals is an excellent objective. However, this concept is not designed to be used in the way that it is being used in this document, its exclection of a desired community first and adjustment of other uses to fit. All uses should be considered in the development of the DPC quies some one exclusive of others. One consideration of the DPC gross should be to provide for the commonity productively of livestock permittees, and provide sufficient forage to maintain current stretching rate or to replace AUM but she in previous reductions. DPC are not the place to express restrictive management guidelines. They should be established at the mid-level planning place to allow progress toward the objectives outlined in the DPC. Will the final RMP/EIS contain or incorporate DPC objectives to maintain or improve livestock forage and the current excensive involving plant in the property of the property of the desired plant in the probability of the livestock grazing permits.

The DPC cancept should be used to monitor how close to DPC objectives the present plant community is and to gauge which direction the trend is moving in relation to these objectives. It is important that DPCs are reasonable and attainable. Site potential is an important criteria for DPC determination. These considerations are not mentioned in the RMP/EIS. Will all DPCs be reasonable and attainable? How will 'reasonable and attainable' Edectrimined?

Land Acquisition

135-5

Many local and state interests are opposed to additional federal land acquisition in the Bithop Resource Area. It is doubtful that the acquisition of 18,700 areas (pg. 37; Table 2-1) is necessary or that it will result in the desired improvements. The justification for the need to acquire private land is not adequately addressed in this document. Other options which do not take land off of the tax

RESOURCE CONCEPTS INC.

Mr. Michael Ferguson, Area Manager January 14, 1991 Page 4

135-5

rolls may attain the same objectives attributed to host acquisition in this RMP/RIS. Less than 15% of from and Mono Councies is privated yowed. It is important to these counties that this figure not be reduced further due to BLM fand acquisition. Land acquisition also capacids bureaucray. The expense of managing the additional land post an additional burden on the foreign budget. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 15% (FLP/MA) requires the BLM to manage public instant and more unable to endeath, but those not require the BLM to sequite additional most most factor of tracks.

In the contract of the contract of 15% of the BLM to expend softiment land to most them of tracks.

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Habitat sequisition is not babitat creation. It is a change in habitat ownership. It does not necessarily result in an improvement in babitat management or quality. Changes in wildlife numbers due to land acquisition do not actually reflect an increase in the zize of the population, but instead represent a change in accounting. The wildlife are present on private land. Land sequisition only changes the ownership of the area in which the census records them.

It is critical that BLM actions not condemn any uses of private land. RCI also has concern that BLM actions may be so restrictive that they remove value from private lands within the Resource Area. This must not be allowed to happen. The BLM cannot plan use of private lands and should not be presumptive by planning the use of lands which are only proposed for acquisitions.

Commodity Production.

135-6

The Bishop RMP/EIS must regard livestock grazing as a lawful activity that is a part of the multiple use environment. This consideration of grazing is mandated by FLPMA which states:

- Section 102(a)(7) Management will be on the basis of multiple use, and
- Section 102(a)(12) Public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands.

In the Livestock Orazing Section (pg 143) of the Bishop RMP/EIS it is noted that: 'Orazing allounnets are licensed for cettle, theory on hones with verious sensors of use, livestock numbers, and grazing management systems'. While this document claims to address all applicable, multiple uses it does not regraft lewid commodify production on the same level as non-revenue uses (recensite while the control or th

An important dimension of resource management is the opportunity for managem to observe on-tile responses of various influences and to manipulate the controllable inputs for movement toward desired objectives. Livestock grazing is well documented as a powerful tool to manipulate wegetation to achieve objective established for other multiple uses. The RMPUES notes that the "development or revision of 10 AMFs and construction of new range improvements have improved freshold: for 153, this points to the fact that the revision of the revision of the revision of the resource.

> RESOURCE CONCEPTS INC, 360 N. Minnestota • Carson City, Newsda 59703 • (702) 853

135-6

cont.

135-7

While the positive aspects of grazing are noted in the RMP/EIS, these benefits are ignored in most of the document. Habitat concerns voiced later in the <u>Livestock Grazing Socials</u> should be addressed in the light of exploring management changes that can be made to allow the use of livestock as a management tool for the improvement of the resource. What provisions will be made in the final RMP/EIS that will provide the option to use livestock grazing to benefit the resource?

The Bishop RAPPEIS does not nederas what the public wants from public lands. RCI believes that the public has interest in cosmoodity are well as non-consonally needs. Production support of multiple was me important to the local, regional, and national concounts and social structures. Cosmoodity was also produce revenue effectly to the Federal Government, i.e. praining feet, maining lates free, etc. The public's interest in mining, grazing, and pay recreation need to be addressed at the RMPFESS Ivent. The tones of this RMPISES at present is one that implies that cosmoolity uses are to be reduced or eliminated in this Resource Area. However, there is no justification offered for this position.

The responser of widdle populations to amangement changes appear to be speculative, i.e. no studies are closed that document the impacts of present samagement or of proposed changes. If the RMP/RIS is going to continually state that livestock grazing has and continues to degrade range resources (i.e. pp. 21, 132, 134, 134, 134, 154, 154, i.e.), then data should be presented to relationate these claims. For instance, the BLM has reportedly been collecting the monitoring data necessary to document the effects of current grazing practices on public land resources since the implementation of the Beatino-Dwent Valley and the Bodie-Coloville Grazing IDSs. If in fact this 'distinct data the third beared grazing and seven efficie of not resource, then this information in the contract of the sevent of the sevent of the property of the sevent of the seve

The Livestock Grazing Decisions Section states that "the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Grazing ElSe (1981 and 1983) are incorporated into this RMP/ElS by reference.' Much of the information from these ElSs is ignored, especially in regard to the economic impacts and the impacts to the livestock industry, families, and communities should major cuts in permitted AUMs occur.

There is not a section in this RMP/EIS discussing the economic impacts of the proposed alternatives. There should be discussion of the economic effects on permittees, local, and regional economics. These new important considerations that need to be quantified. Why was this analysis omitted? Will it be a part of the final RMP/EIS?

Livestock grating reductions and management changes made over the years have a cumulative effect on all aspects of the recourse that need to be addressed. How will these cumulative effects be addressed in the final RMP/EIST It is crucial to include an evaluation of the effect of livestock grazing changes on the community, and the cumulative effects of the proposed changes. Will the final RMP/EIST broked bill analysis of these effects?

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Some permittees are concerned that restrictions outlined by the document will force them to move livestock by truck instead of by trailing. Not only would this represent a substantial conomic burden to the permittee, it is not an ecologically sound alternative. The effects of the consumption of final facts to move livestock are much less environmentally swory than the effects of properly trailed livestock. Will restrictions in this RMPETs crutk in this faced channer?

SPECIFIC COMMENTS REFERENCED BY PAGE NUMBER

- Pg 3: In this RAIP/EIS, DPC nanagement is referred to as a wildlife action. The DPC approach is a multiple use concept. Will DPC be designed with inversence of all interests through livestock objectives within the LPC promoted.
- Pg 3: Fuchwood cutting is a good tool to use in meeting wildlife habitat diversity goals. However the size of the area requiring treatment and restrictions cited in the RMF/BIS, i.e. limited access, leads one to question the likelihood of this method being used widely enough to meet goals.
- Pg 8: Table S-1 omits a livestock evaluation and has no analysis of community impacts. Will these sections be included in the final RMP/EIS7 Will documentation of projections made in this table be included in the final document?
- | Pg 10 Table S-1 Alternative 1: Pronghorn habitat will probably not be adversely affected and may benefit from properly managed livestock grazing. Determination of proper management is beat left on-site.
- Pg 10 Table S-1 Alternative 1: Non-mobile species have survived 130 years of European influence.

 25-15

 Many of these years were under unquestionably power unanagement than occurs todys. It is inthat these species will continue to exist as meangement improves and considers their needs.

 Management creativity and flexibility are required, not whocales restrictions.
- Pg 19: The nummary of concerne listed in the RMP/EIS did not list concerne expressed on the need to 18:56–16 for Bishop Recourse Area to carry its permitted capacity of livestock. What short maintaining/einhancing the conoronale viability of permitted livestock operations? Will the final RMP/EIS address these concerne?
- [35-7] The RMP/ESS states that recreational use in the Bishop Resource Area is rapidly incoming, 135-71 in intensity and diventity, Due to the emphasis placed in the RMP/ESS to accumandon recoration and the highly negative imports this will have on livestock grazing, as clied on page 202, at the very minimum the BLM shooth disclose the information available to demonstrate the denaund for increased recreation so the general public can evaluate whether the "henefits" of these alternatives is worth the "cost; i.e. the reduction and/or restriction of multiples.
 - Pg 23: It should be noted in the wildlife portion of the <u>Major Issues Addressed Section</u> that livestock grazing and range improvements can favorably impact wildlife habitat under proper management. Will the positive aspects of grazing be included in this section of the final RMP/EIST

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135-18

145-19

Fig 28: The South layo Mountain Wilderness Study Area should be managed as wilderness if those who are imprected are in favor of such. However, other wilderness study areas should be released from multiple use management as quickly as possible. There is concern that range improvements planned in several races are not being implemented while an area is being studied for wilderness designation.

Pg 24: The impacts of numerous aspects affecting the area are addressed, yet livestock grazing is intentionally over-looked or referenced to two previous EISs. Will a summary of these two EISs be included?

Pg 28. Aross currently allocated for grazing but not precently used should not be permanently restricted from grazing use. National cuttle numbers are low at the present time (near record lown). Livestock may not be available to graze all acres available for their use. Historically, numbers have followed a cycle pattern and have risen from lows. Three needs to be public land forage available for the difficult acttle included in the building. It is important that the ELM not get involved in a "num of to the life." If the ELM whites to use AUMs consciously made available on Ferestock allotaments be needed with the life and the representation of the companies permittenes. These veneral relationates on he used as replacement for upper for active allocatesas. This provides for a very desirable visionis noticine. It is important that freestock and long precision grazing and offer provisions to other serves, while allowing the Reconserval rest on and on previde grazing and offer provisions to other serves, while allowing the Reconserval rest to early the permitted number of AUMs, perhaps in dry years, following fires, or when allotanents need sittle framewoment insuperentations.

Any permits that are climinated from the Resource Area should be removed by agreement and with compensation or replacement. The mechanism for determining if permits should be removed and which permits should be taken is not outlined in this document. The purpose of this type of plan is to outline the criteria and mechanism those involved at the allotment level should use.

Pg 25 Item 8: RCI is concerned with the statement that: "The RMP will: decide which areas will be grased by livestock." This should be done with the input of interested and involved parties. How will it be decided which areas will be grazed by livestock?

Pg 25 Hem 10: RCI is concerned by limitations implied by the statement: "BLM will continue to cooperate with the California Department of Fish & Game (CDF&G) with regard to Deer Herd Management Plans". The BLM also should cooperate with other users and interests, particularly if these plans will affect livestock management on an allotment or allotments. Who will be involved in cooperative deer herd management?

Pg 26: RCI disagrees with Area Manager Guideline #1 that DPCs should be identified in this plan.

Tubeldines for determining DPCs should be identified in this plan. DPCs should be determined at

the allotment and/or activity planning level.

Pg 27 Item 8. What will determine "significant interference" in regard to sage grouse habitat? Who will make this decision? This should be a HMP/AMP decision that is made cooperatively.

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Pg 27 Item 18: Fire management plans should include consideration of grazing as a tool for fire suppression and fuel load management. Will grazing be discussed as a tool available to resource managers? The decision to use grazing for fire suppression should be made at the allottment level.

18-5-27 RMPGES level. Will middle seek source Management (VRM) classes should be used only as guidelines at 18-5-27 the MPGES level. Will middle line he antibilities in the RMPGES level. Will middle line he antibilities on the findered VRM decisions should be under at the allotmentactivity planning level. Cooperative planning at these levels will allow decisions to reflect whether changes are truly distruptive to the visual recourse. For example, facuous may be a forouthe part of the visual resource in the Bodde Bowl where they reflect a part of the history of the new. VRM decisions must reflect long term benefits over short term benefits (FCPMA Section 202(c)/T). VRM guidelines should allow the implementation of proper range management protices. For example, the long term benefits of preceived burning, brush control, etc. may outweigh short term visual resource drawbecks. Decisions made at the allotmentactivity planning levels could be and defore stokes itsues.

Pg 28: Are the acreages cited for DPC goals consistent with available Geographic Information System (GIS) maps? Broadscale mapping may not be indicative of what is available to meet more founded objectives.

| Pg 29: The use of the word <u>must</u> in regard to meeting DPC standards is not consistent with the DPC concept. Acreeges and DPCs should be targets and goals only, not mechanisms used to reduce or climinate livestock grazing. Will this wording be changed?

135-20 tercets. The filter creeks recommended for study as Wild and Scenic (W&S) Rivers are not in fact rivers 135-20 tercets. Therefore consideration for W&S status need not be continued. If W&S designations are granted, pidelines should be designed so that management and similarization are not hampered, with access allowed for these purposes. Condicatestan should be made for the conclination of management needs for acquisition of deeded land. They may not be available for government somitistics.

135-31

Pg 36 Table 2-1: Why is grazing being eliminated on one unused allotment? Why is a grazing prohibition proposed for 3 allotments in use? Wouldn't it be better to have allotments available to provide management flexibility than to offer prohibitions?

135-32

| Pg 37 Table 2-1: Private land acquisition for the purpose of wildlife habitat improvement and for improvement of visual resources is stated to have a significant impact. Will the mechanism for these improvements taking place be explained?

185-23 ACE, must need the Charlest in a public disclosure document. 43 CFR 1610.7-2 distated that Charlest in the Charlest

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135-34

135-37

Fig 37 Table 2-1: Will the Botile Bord ACEC include only the area defined by the ridgetops? If not, why are additional acra included? Will ACEC be limited in airs to the resure of critical course? Special designation of areas as ACEC draws attendion and use to these areas, this may be country to the desired offert. An area should be of critical occurs and have reconverte that cannot be protected in norther manner in order to be designated as an ACEC. Will other means of protection be considered from the results of the process of the process

Pg 40: Sage grouse habitat protection measures should not be included in this RMP/EIS. They should be decided by a planning team at the allotment level. The suggested restrictions would probably make livestock gracing impossibly

Fg 40: RCI disagrees with the statement that "A 6-year decline in the forb component or loss of mandow to supply the decreasement that "A 6-year decline in the forb component or loss of mandow to supply the decreasement in a mediator to supply the decreasement in the forb component of a plant commandy in a commonly associated with an increase in range condition. A decline in livestock use will not necessarily result in more forts. Use adjustments need to be site specific and be evaluated on a connectflete basis. What mechanism will be used to make dedictionents?

Pg 43: The BLM identifies that the congressional and executive orders for watershed withdrawnsh all be revoked or proposed for revocation under Atternatives 3 and 4, but fails to identify how this will be accomplished. How is the BLM proposing to address this matter if either of these alternatives are selected?

Pg 66: Justification for protection guidelines outlined in Alternative 3 should be documented. Many of thesis guidelines would beat he applied at the allotment planning level. Alternative 3 appears in lignosis the use of livestock grazing to manipulate vegetation to achieve catabilished objectives. Will the final RMP/EIS include discussion of the use of livestock for vegetation manipulation? What will these areas be protected from grazing, camping, off-mad which terwol, or other activities?

1 Pg 66: The RM/PIES states that one of the objectives under Alternatives 3 and 4 is to increase the amount from 30 to 60 percent of a sgorush habitat that has optimum characteristics for a sgo grouse. Bowever, the RM/PIES fails to identify what these optimal babitat characteristics are and how far sawy the current conditions are from meeting this objective. Will this information be disclosed in the RM/PIES not be public can provide well-informed input into this issue.

Pg 50: Vegetation protection recommendations should be site specific and determined at the allotment and/or activity planning level. As stated on page 27 of the RMP/EIS, site specific actions should not be in this plan.

Pg 50: The restrictions on grazing within 2 miles of lels is not justifiable. Not only is it overly neutricitive, it may be counterproductive. Livestock grazing may benefit these areas. Livestock and sage grouse are compatible rather than competitive. Decisions on restrictions should be made ecoperatively at the alkoment/activity planning level.

Pg 50: Maintenance of 95% of 10 year mean stream flows is desirable. However, as riparian areas improve, hydrophytes will be more dominant in the plant community. Therefore water quantity

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|35-42 | delivered downstream may decrease, while water quality and sustainability will probably increase.

Cort. | delivered downstream may decrease, while water quality and sustainability will probably increase.

Changes in stream flow should not infringe on private, district, or downstream water rights.

185-45

The Secretary of the Secretary o

| 135-44 | Pg 51-92: Alternative descriptions for individual management areas list varying acreages for DPC objectives. Where are they located? In which allotment are they found?

12-5-45. Pg 55: What is the justification for yearlong protection of mule deer winter range?

Pg 61: In regard to fire suppression measures allowed in class 1.6. II areas, only recommendations management decisions to be made at the RMP/ESI Seed. Problibition eliminates the opportunity for management decisions to be made on a more managemble level. While recommendations and input created at the RMP/ESI Seed should guide the resource manager, it is important that all options are left open for consideration. It is very easy to erwision a situation where fire damage would be more destinantal confirmations are converted by the damage caused by initial fire suppression with judicious use of theory confirmations.

Pg 63: There is a decision that 'class of livestock will be changed from cattle to sheep on the Auron Canyon, Bodie Mountain, Potato Peak, and Travertise Hills allotments'. There is no justification for this decision. This would teath in a significant negative impact to the permittees on these allotments. What justification is there for this decision. What management objectives will this change address? How will sheep prainty before a composiblement of this objective?

135-47 Pg 66: Mineral development in the Bodie Bowl will not necessarily degrade scenic and recreational values. What documentation is there for these effects?

Pg 82: It does not seem reasonable that mule deer habitat can be improved in the Owens Valley through the acquisition of migration corridors. What data was used to make this proposal?

135-49 | Pg 88: What is the justification for yearlong protection of tule elk calving areas?

Pg 92: There are no references made in Table 2-2 or in the neconspanying narrative as to why indicated changes will take place. It is difficult to respond to the technical accuracy of management effects when no details are given as to technical derivation. Will the final RAPR/ESI include full documentation regarding the derivation of the effects of proposed changes or will these changes be climinated from the RAPR/ESI and decisions under at the allocational level?

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Pg 95-14 Table 2-2: The change distact by this RMP will have a first effect on grazing use and on permitters, set to malphin is given of the effects on the relects on Birotic choice to make no mapping the product of the effects of the relect the quantified in the final document? Proposed in torcess in whitlife populations may result in increased depredation of private lay measions, will be impact of the first analysed in the final focusions?

Fg 59-97: It is not possible to predict the impacts of the proposed alternatives (Male deer habitat impacts) on mule deer populations without considering many writables. The reduction or enclimination of grazing would probably not have a large effect on deer numbers. Mule doer "publishes are restricted by the most limiting factor in the particup limit." Yet the EMPIFES never safetures (directly or by reference) what factors are most limiting for deer herds present on the safetures (directly or by reference) what factors are most limiting for deer herds present on the factors of the safeture of resource measure."

Pg 10: What sources are used to predict a 150% increase in sage grouse populations in the Granite Hills MA with the independentation of Alternative 47 Nunerous studies show that graning can be used to enhance sage grouse habitat. Why haven't the studies supporting the proposed changes been cited? Why baven't studies outlining the use of grazing to benefit sage grouse habitat been cited? Why haven't amangers been given the option of using grazing to benefit sage grouse habitat been cited?

Py 2DR. Recognising that the Bureau can only manage babiats, sage grouse population assessments and projections instuded in this RMPSIS do not address the effects of weather, prediction, and/or harding on populations. These factors play as inspect to the intelligence of the properties and habitat factors are indirected. These factors need to the factors of the Chapter St. Livestock grading in not the only factor that affects age grouse populations. Will plant to made to cooperatively address these factors with other constrained.

Fig. 127. Are the population objectives proposed for prosphorn in the Bodie Hills relative? An increase to 200 animals in projected from a present level of 50, yet there are no references to this total population levels over the 43 years since the herd was reintroduced. The magnetized frames of the proposed for this finecase. It will not be possible to purple the progress of magnetized frames without a time frame. What time frame is satisfyated for the proposed bert increase? How will it has adjusted for the many variables that may affect the promotory proposition?

Pg 132: The vegetation section of this RMP/EIS should include descriptions of vegetation present and explanations of potential as determined by soils and ecological sites. This section should not provide value judgement for range conditions.

Fig 132: The removal of vogetation by livestock that occurs in the understory of Aspen groves and elsewhere should be considered use and not loss. If cooperative planning determines that use by livestock is not a destinable as use by wildlife in certain areas then management changes should be made as to degree and season of use. Attaining specific objectives is a management challenge that should be dealt with at the allottenal level, not in the RMP/RES.

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Pg. 132: The description of a 55% decrease in spen accept that in high vegetative conditions rises come questions, putfordarly since livestock graning during the period has either boost reduced with the period of the continuous putfordarly since livestock graning during the period has either boost reduced. We shall the same time of year in the same reducinor to graning centarly where personnel, trained in the same manner? Sites in the Bodie Hills visited by RCI in 1989 were probably in high serie coological status unities CS guides.

135-59 Pg 134: What methods were used to evaluate riparian area conditions? How was site potential determined? Were these evaluations based on ecological or habitat conditions?

Pg 135: Managed livestock grazing is compatible with spring associated wetlands. These species have consisted with fivestock in the past and will containe to thrive as management improves. There is not a need to eliminate grazing except for very small exclusions at spring sources. The mechanism used to manage grazing in riparian areas should be left as options to be considered through the cooperative decision process. At which level will these decisions be made?

Pg 136: Sensitive plant babitats have been exposed to 130 years of grazing many of these years with 136-61

In the management and over these plants are still present. In seem possible that with proper grazing management these areas can still be used for liveatock grazing while maintaining the plant populations.

Pg 13c: Some sensitive plant habitats are currently being used season-long by livestock. This institution may require an adjustment of time, degree, and season of use but specifies should not be addressed in the RMP/EIS. There are positive aspects of livestock grazing, i.e. berd effect, which increases the uptake of soil moisture and sids in covering and spreading seed. Rotations and management may be designed to benefit sensitive behintst.

Pg 136: The probability of loss of other candidate areas for sensitive plant habitat from road maintenance or general recreational use needs to be documented.

|35-62 | Pg 143: The use of the terms unsatisfactory and satisfactory is not acceptable in the Livestock Grazing Section. There are no criteria established to determine into which category areas should fall.

135-63 Pg 143: Is there documentation for the soil compaction referred to in the Livestock Grazing Section?

Pg 145: Why bas grazing been reduced in Slinkard Valley on BLM silotments while the CDF&G allows grazing on their allotments? Doesn't CDF&G allow grazing because they found grazing necessary to meet widdlife bailst objectives;

135-65 Pg 149: The RMP/EIS states that livestock grazing has adversely affected riparian and aquatic stream habitats. What is the basis of this statement? What data does the BLM have to support it?

Pg 151: If population trends are stable, why is the inference made that livestock, etc. are impacting these sensitive plant species?

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Pg 188: The RMP/EIS states that under Alternative 1, continued early season grazing on private meadow and riparian areas will degrade or eliminate sage grouse and quail habitat. What data was used to arrive at this conclusion?

Fg 189-199: There is inadequate description of impacts on mule deep to allow a comparison between alternatives and from which to justify BLMS concludions. For instance, there is no discretable difference between the descriptions of impacts resulting from Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 on mule doct, however, the BLM concludes that Alternative 1 will have a slight to monodrate adverse impact on 6 mule deer berds, while Alternative 2 will have a moderate to bigh negative impact on these name bends. What is the bush for this determination?

Pg 199: Isn't it true that climate, weather, and BLM fire suppression strategy also affect vegetation?

Perhaps these factors should also be discussed in the RMP/EIS.

Pg 201: The RMP/EES states that "The impacts on liveatock grazing both regionally and on Bratesn and would be highly negative, with direct impacts to 19 permittees. The greatest impacts would be highly negative, with office impacts in 19 permittees. The greatest impacts would be in the Both EIII and Long valley seens." The impacts of changes proposed in Alternatives 3 and 4 are deemed by the EIS to be negative to liveatock permittees. Documentations that patifiest the changes must be included in the final document. In addition, 40 CFR 1502.14 stipulates that appropriate minigation to reduce significant impacts should be included in a IES. Since these stitemathree will impact liveatock grazing in a "highly negative" manner, what steps is the BLM impossible of the contract of the EIAM impossible of the CFR 1502.05 are not an arthorised multiple use?

215: No commodity organizations are listed for distribution of the draft EIS. However 25 contained and environmental organizations were listed for distribution. It should also be noted that Cellifornia Ferm Bureau Federation in not a state agency. The EIS should have been sent ut the California Department of Agriculture, et al. Was it in fact sent to these organizations? Why were not many one-commodity organizations included while commodity organizations were not?

Pg 239-241: Elmore (1988) indicates that only 3 to 4 inches of residual stubble at the time of peak flow is required to maintain or rebuild degraded streams. Why are DPC objectives in the RMPsigness greater than this recommendation? What is the BLM's justification for these restrictive resouriements?

Fig 240: What data were used to determine that residual forage levels for pronghorn should be 750 -1000 pounds per are reg (inf op) following livestock grazing? What data was used to determine that these sizes have this level of forage production potential or that this level of production is required by prongator? Please disclose this information in the final document.

Pg 2/43: Are stream bank overhang objectives and shade cover requirements realistic? Aren't these alte specific determinations that should not be included in the RMP/EIS? Don't different stream types have varying potentials for stream bank overhang? At what time of day will shade measurements be made?

Pg 263: Will VRM classifications of I or II eliminate or severely affect the implementation of structural range improvements?

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PG 269-270: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS)

135-76
SOP #A3: The average annual utilization level of 60% is an acceptable level of utilization and can be probably exceeded in areas grazed as part of a rotation or if they are allowed to regrow.

SOP #B1 and B3: Restrictions on saling, applicant feeding, and sheep bedding grounds are acceptable at no closer that 1/4 mile from named specific sites. However, these decisions should be made at the AMP/activity pain level.

SOP #185: Traupling is very difficult to monitor and utilization is a such measure, but RCU is 125-780 Sometime of the such as the such as

SOP # B7: RCI recommends the change of the words "resource damage" to read "areas that consistently show heavy use". A fencing change should reflect a reasedy that addresses the cause of the problem.

SOP #Ct: This restriction is probably acceptable but should be used as a guidellne. It may not also when per possible to locate water facilities more than 14 mile from water convex. As what level-will this decision be made? What mechanism will be used to determine feasibility and practicality? Why should all water facilities the located out of reprisent mean? Retrictions that force breached the facilities to be located out of reprisent mean? Retrictions that force breached and force and the state of the sta

[35-8] SOP #CS: Who will determine the necessity of vegetation clearing for feace construction and maintenance? This should be decided by an activity planning team. It should not be a general rule or a fixed guideline.

135-82 SOP #C6: Shouldn't this requirement be based on the VRM classification where the improvement is proposed?

| SOP #CT: Wildlife considerations can be designed into livestock water developments but wildlife management funds should be used for construction and maintenance when the cost with the changes is significantly higher than without.

3OP #C17: Why shouldn't vegetation within 200 fact of well travelled roads be vegetatively. 13:5-644 inspection of the property of the pro

SOP #C20: What is the basis for 3 years rest after a burn? The length of rest should be a star specific decision made at the allotment/activity planning level, not a SOP. Properly managed grants

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at the proper intensity and timing of use may enhance vegetative recovery. Weather places an important role in burn recovery. Wouldn't site specific decisions be a better way to manage burns and address the variables involved?

AREAS OF AGREEMENT

There are numerous statements made in this RMP/EIS which RCI agrees with and would like to secution specifically. RCI believes that these statements reflect the direction that the RMP/EIS should take through its entirety.

Fig. 4 RCI agrees with the statement that in the Rodie Hilb Management Area "Livestock praining actions would way from currents tocking rates and seasons of use to basing Brotzeck management on DVC goals." RCI supports the establishment of general DVC goals for the Rodie Hilb cooperatively with consideration for the needs of permitted livestock gazing, Menve ut DVC goals to applied and will all uses be considered as they are set? If the RLM has shready decided where DVC will be implicamented, an implied by accessed policytes listed in Chapter, 2 (this information should be fully disclosed in the RIS. Of particular interest to the permittees is in which addresses the relation to the permittees in which addresses the relation to the relation of the relation of the relation of the relation to the contract of the permittees in which addresses the relation to the relation to the current conditions in these sees in a relation to DVC decionalized."

 \mathbb{P}_2 2-8. RCI agrees that "If the resource condition objectives established in the RMF/RES are not belain geat, changes in the fleestork gazing purctices will be made as necessary to achieve those objectives over a reasonable period of time." These objectives, however, must be multiple use objectives over a reasonable period of time. * These objectives are being not before making changes and with adjustmost ato follow that will allow the objectives to be met over a reasonable period of time. This may also involve changes in use cotter than fivestork grains and with adjustmost a form of the reasonable period of time. This may also involve thanges in use cotter than fivestork grains.

Pg 25-26: RCI is in agreement with and would like to emphasize the following statements from the General Policy Section {References are to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)).

- Management will be on the basis of multiple use [Section 102(a)(7)].
- Public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970, as it pertains to public lands (Section 102(a)(12)).
- The Bureau will weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits [Section 202(c)(7)].

It is the concern of RCI that these mandates are not emphasized. Non-commodity interests are given preferential treatment in the RMP/EIS. Reseason for concern is demonstrated in item #2 of the Area Manager's Guidelines. "Vegetative goals for wildlife habitat, watershed protection and riparian

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conditions generally will be given strong consideration in relationship to Diventock foreign models.

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RCI agrees with the second seatence of these point on multiple use criment. Buntle consideration can be used:

RCI agrees with the second seatence if these point are multiple use criment. Buntle consideration, should be given to all lawful uses of the Rouveror Acro. Management creativity may provide for compromises that will allow all objectives to be addressed. How will vegetative point be neff. Will these models inconvoient the needs of multiple uses.

Pg 26: RCI agrees with Area Manager's Guideline #5 ⁵To the extent practical, riparism areas will be maintained, restored, or improved. What will determine "to the extent practical?" This needs to be disclosed in the RMP/EIS.

Fig. 22. ECI agrees with the direction established in #3 of <u>Determination That Will Rot to Made in This Plan.</u> Since profile actions related to sail and water objectives are not made in this plan. This Plan. Since profile actions related to sail and water resources in general, none specific decisions area siffect roll and water resources in general, none specific decisions and exclose will be made at the activity plan level and Boet Management Practices (BRPA) will be developed during activity plans or at the project level as necessary to address the site specific roll and water issue. It is a ICIV position that this is the direction that toolad plate the development and water insue. It is a ICIV position that this is the direction that toolad plate the development and water insue it is not a long to the tool to the control of the RMF/RIS. Management with the ELM on this scini.

13:5-41
Fig. 36. RCI agrees that "Three potential ACEO, that receive protection of their significant values of the converse from standard management preceptions are not recommended for designation." RCI believes that this should be the general direction of the RMP/RISI in regard to all proposed ACEO, and believes that those which will receive protection under proposed changes also bound not be recommended for designation. Will reare that will be atforded protection under this plan be commended for designation. Will reare that will be atforded protection under this plan to commended the designation. Will reare that will be atforded protection under this plan to commended the designation. There is no next will be atforded protection under which, though but management changes and designation.

| Pg 134: The values given in Table 3.7 are good and appear to be in line with RCI's estimation of the area. However, we recommend the use of ecological status terminology, i.e. low-, mid., high-seral stage. What terminology will be used in the final RMP/EIS?

Pg 213: While it is a positive note that the BLM reacts favorably to public input in the planning process, RCI feels that this process would be improved if more of the input generated was incorporated into the RMP/EIS.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

125-14

RCT's concern, on behalf of the dents, with this document is that it does not fairly address concerns the state of the dents of

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manage. The BLM is a management agency and has the ability to do a good job, it is a mistake for the Bureau to the its own hands in a manner that prohibbits if from carrying out the function for which it was entablished. RCI would like to suggest that Dr. Wayne Burkhardt's article on DPCs (attached) be reviewed for incorporation into the final RMF/RIS.

RCI would like to thank you for your consideration of and response to these comments. We look forward to your response. Please feel free to contact me or Jack Alexander of my staff should you have any questions.

Jock Olexader For John L. McLain, Principal Cortified Range Management Consultant

JLM:ja

Sincepely.

attachment

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Attachment

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

As we are beginning to evaluate monitoring data in many allotrents to determine if the objectives are being mat, we find immediately that most AMD objectives have been stated in unrealistic and/or unmeasurable terms. Frequently objectives are "God and Motherhood" statements that sound reassuring but are not measurable. Often they are similatic statements to the effect of improving range condition from poor to fair or from fair to good etc. without any reliable knowledge of range condition status at the time when the plan was implemented and less thought given to what "improving range condition" really means in terms of changing plant community characteristics. Such objective statements fail to identify the characteristics of the desired vegetation on a particular landscape. Heither dod such statements provide any rationale which would assure us that the resulting vegetation characteristics of "improved range condition" would better meet our real land use goals such as mule, winter range, antelope spring habitat. livestock forage etc. Such objective statements are often predicated on a blind assumption that improving condition is possible and desirable. We should and can do much better than this.

The ideas developed and tested during the Susanville workshop provides a systematic analytic process for developing allotment goals and defining management objectives in terms of countificable characteristics of vegetiden that would meet or supply the goals. Trend monitoring can then be designed around these objectives and subsequent interpretation and reporting of management accompliancem becomes a straight forward logical output of properly defined objectives. In a step wise fachion this approach might be laid-out as follows:

- Identify planning area (i.e. allotment) resource and land use issues and based on these issues develop management goals for the planning area. Identifying issues and developing goals should utilize the CEMP
 - or TET approach. Goals should be statements such as to provide mule deer winter habitat or anteloge spring range or livestock summer forage or aquatic habitat.
- 2. Define management objectives for the planning area based on the goals and site capabilities. These objectives should be quantitative statements of the desired plant communities which are realistically possible and which best provide for the realization of our soal. Such Vegetation then becomes the focus of our samagement and the reasure of management accomplishments on any particular landscape. To develop management objectives requires an inventory or knowledge of the ecological sites present or the planning area. Those sites which have the potential to uniquely provide vegetation favorable to attainment of a particular goal are aggregated. The range of possible plant communities for these sites (low to high seral) are identified and the Percention characteristics within that broader gradient which best provides for the particular goal is described. This then becomes our desired plant community (DPC) which is the basis for a management objective and the focus of our management activity on that particular area or landscape.

J. Wayne Burkhardt Dept. of Range, University of Newada Reng An example of this approach might be as follows:

Planoing area - North Mtn.

Resource or Land Use Goal - the CEMP group or technical review team exreed that late fall-early winter range for sule deer was an important insue on portions of North Htn. Therefore the goal would be to provide late fall-early winter habitat for sule deer.

The inventory or professional knowledge of North Htm. indicates that the deer use area is a collection of several ecological sites all of Maich support mountain big sagebrush - bitterbrush regetation. I.e.

loany 18-16
stooy loany 12-18
loany slopes 18-16
loany bottoms
stooy sloper

The range of possible vegetation oo this aggregation of sites night be

xpressed	as a gradie	tot.	- DPC	>	
60-8	0% Grass	Gradieot	60-80%	Shrubs	
5-1	0% Forbs		0-10%	Forbs	
0-1	0% Shrub		5-10\$	Grass	

Within that range of possible vegetatioo (from a grassland to a closed shrub stand) the vegetatioo which might best provide late fall-early winter mule habitat is represented by the DPC portion of the gradient and could be described &Cr20's shrub, 5-10's forts and 5-20's grass.

This description then becomes our management objective expressed in quantitative terms which can be treed monitored.

If on the other hand our primary goal for North Htm. had been livestock summer forage, then the DPC would likely be on the opposite end of the gradient and could be described as 40-20% grass, 5-10% forbs and 0-40% shrubs.

In asther of the two examples would it have been appropriate to have described our management objective in terms of improving range condition. In the case of the mule deer habitat peal we would likely want to move more instant a lower condition class. In the case of the livestock forage goal we say well be wanting to manage for a vegetation which would varie a higher condition beta on againgt the objectives obscures the real attribute of vegetation (attructure) and reclament with an abstraction of the condition but no strain.

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- Develop management or activity plan. This would be the traditional plan detailing how graziog is to be conducted or how vegetation manipulations will be done to attain or maintain the DPC.
- 4. Develop a monitoring plan which details how annual events occurring on the planning area will be recorded and how long term accomplishment of objectives will be measured.
- 5. Evaluation and Esperting. Evaluation involves the periodic massament of continering information to identify contents and the nature of the vegetation resource which have occurred management thate history produced those changes. These changes are thus occurs that appropriate management objectives to evaluate the success of management. Reporting could be in the following terms.

Management Co Target

Present plant community is within the limits of the DPC and trend in stable or toward DPC.

Management Off Target But Acceptable

Present plant community not within limits of the DPC but trend is toward DPC.

Management Off Target and Unacceptable

Present plant community outside DPC limits and trend stable or away from DPC.

Management On Target and Toacceptable

Present plant community within DPC but trend away from DPC.

What I have attempted is to explain the approach developed at Susanville. approach to developing smangement objectives and measuring management success. While this process may yet be improved oo, it currently represents an improvement on the way business has been done.

Sincerely Warpe Buffredt

J. Wayne Burkhardt Associate Professor RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 135 (Resource Concepts, Inc.)

135-1) We agree with the gist of this paragraph. However, a land use plan makes land use allocations and establishes resource conditions objectives. Thus, it is unreasonable to expect that all options [will be] left open for consideration by allotment planning teams.*

AMPs and HMPs are activity level plans. Thus, there are two levels of planning: the RMP and the activity level plans.

- 135-2) The purpose of the RMP is to provide a framework for management. This may include some restrictions.
- 135-3) Although none of the alternatives satisfy every spectrum of the public, they are reasonable and achievable in the sense that they each comply with existing laws, meet the objectives of the alternative, and are technically feasible. It is not practical to include an accounting of the costs of all alternatives. The plan will not establish a hierarchy of funding priorities. However, when funding is established through the budget process all funded projects will have to be tied to the RMP (see response 62-10).

The decisions regarding recreation/livestock conflicts have been changed.

- 135-4) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 135-5) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 135-6) The Bureau acknowledges that livestock grazing can foster improvement of the vegetative resource when done properly. Site-specific analysis would be needed and the subsequent decision would be made at the activity plan level (i.e. AMP preparation). For RMP level decision-making purposes livestock grazing is considered a viable option. Should there be specific impacts once implementation of the plan commences, consultation, coordination and cooperation with the affected permittee will occur.

135-7) The conclusion that commodity uses might be eliminated by this plan is unwarranted. For example, 95% of the Resource Area would be open for mineral entry and there would be only minor reductions in overall livestock use (see Table 2-1 in the draft).

The development of the draft RMP included extensive public involvement. See Response 51-1. One of the results of the involvement was a clear understanding that the public, both local and nonlocal, has a great concern for the natural resources of this area. That concern is reflected in the description of the Resource Area (overview) on p.19 of the draft and is carried over to the management themes of the preferred alternatives. Commodity uses are by no means forgotten and will continue to be a significant part of the lifestyle and economy of this area, but there is a need for improved management (in some cases protection) of the scenic values, wildlife habitats, streams and other environmental features.

135-8) The resource data requested are found in the draft RMP on the following pages: stream, spring, and water quality surveys on p.129; aspen grove surveys on p.132; riparian surveys on p.134. A summary of monitoring data has been included in the 'Grazind' general response.

Although not included in the document, sensitive plant monitoring shows that at least 6 out of 16 species are receiving direct impacts from livestock grazing, i.e. utilization, trampling, and some cases of uprooting.

The data cited above are on file in the Bishop Area Office and available for public review.

Livestock grazing is not the sole factor behind the present conditions of the key management areas within the RMP, but grazing is a contributing factor.

135-9,10) The impacts on livestock grazing are described on pp.200-202 of the draft RMP. These impacts have been revised in the 'grazing' section of Chapter 4.

- 135-11) There are no decisions concerning trailing, except for the Standard Operating Procedure B.4. in Appendix 7 which states that trailing use will be authorized and controlled, and routes will be identified. Trailing routes may need to be changed in order to mitigate impacts.
- 135-12) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 135-13) The lack of roads in some areas will likely diminish their attractiveness as fuelwood sites; however, we feel the overall habitat diversity goal can be attained with other methods,
- 135-14) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 135-15) Your statement seems to assume that non-mobile species populations will continue to exist at present levels of abundance and occupied habitat. However, some species are delimited to such small locations that a single event could eliminate the population or entire species. Our management direction emphasizes, whenever possible, habitat for species of special concern will be treated in a manner to avoid the need for listing under state or federal endangered species legislation (see p.271, #12, draft olan).
- 135-16) For the most part permitted livestock operations should not be adversely affected by these RMP decisions. Should there be specific impacts once implementation of the plan commences, consultation, coordination and cooperation with the affected permittee will occur.
- 135-17) The impacts to livestock grazing have been reevaluated and modified in the final RMP. Please also see general response to livestock grazing at the beginning of this chapter.
- 135-18) Where livestock grazing will favorably impact wildlife habitat it will be so stated.
- 135-19) Please see Chapter 1, Wildemess Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wildemess review process.

- 135-20) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 135-21) Please see response 90-12.

Other allotments to be removed from grazing are Round Valley and Sherwin. These allotments have allocated preference to operators. Three allotments (Dry Canyon, Slinkard, Copper Mountain) were originally removed from grazing but the decisions on these allotments have been changed. Grazing on Dry Canyon and Slinkard will be removed only if other range can be found to accommodate the grazing taking place on these allotments. Grazing at Larkin Lake will only be authorized to maintain waterfowl habitat. Grazing on Copper Mountain will be removed when the existing operator relinquishes or transfers the preference. The Wells Meadow allotment will be removed from grazing when the current operator relinquishes or transfers the grazing preference. These allotments have been proposed for unallocated status for wildlife habitat improvement.

- 135-22) The RMP is the vehicle which allows for public input to the Bureau's land use planning process. The Bureau's Supplemental Program Guidance (SPG) establish the issues to be addressed in its planning process. Determination of which areas are to be grazed by livestock is one of them.
- 135-23) Cooperative deer herd management is primarily the responsibility of state game agencies and federal land management agencies. Consideration is given to the concerns and recommendations of other entities potentially affected by deer herd management.
- 135-24) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 135-25) Please refer to response 92-5.
- 135-26) Grazing will not be listed as a fire suppression tool.

- 135-27) The Bureau policy manual, Section 1621.41 directs that visual resource management objectives be assigned to all public lands in the resource area through the RMP process. It further states that the visual objectives identified in the RMP are incorporated into the activity plans so that surface disturbing activities are managed in a manner conforming to the RMP visual objectives. See response 52-14 for further information.
- 135-28,29) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 135-30) Page 29 of the draft RMP identifies the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act's definition of a river. Creeks and other bodies of water do qualify for eligibility. Potential or existing resource conflicts that would result from wild and scenic river designation will be evaluated in the uccoming studies.
- 135-31) See response 135-20 regarding the unused allotments.

The three allotments with allocated preference were proposed for unallocated status for wildlife habitat improvement. Larkin Lake is prime waterfowl habitat. Round Valley and Sherwin are within a critical deer winter range. Grazing will now be authorized at Larkin Lake, at the Bureau's discretion, to maintain waterfowl habitat.

- 135-32) Please refer to the Impacts section of Chapter 4 for a discussion of impacts to visual resources and wildlife from acquisitions. Impacts to mule deer, pronghorn, threatened and endangered species, and visual resources from acquisitions are described for all alternatives.
- 135-33) The documentation of 'relevance' and 'importance' criteria for all potential ACECs is part of the RMP Administrative Record. This information is on file in the Bishop Area Office. The general management goals and proposed special management for each ACEC is presented in the RMP/EIS.
- 135-34) Please see the general Bodie response for an explanation of the Bodie questions. ACES have been limited to the size of the area of critical concern. ACEC designation has not proven to be

like that of Wilderness which has indeed attracted attention and increased use and often resulted in increased degradation of an area. Three proposed ACECs (Alternative 3) were dropped because the areas could be protected and managed without the ACEC designation.

- 135-35) Please refer to the portion of response 52-10 directed at sage grouse guidelines. In addition, the final plan decision for the 2 mile radius around leks addresses goals for vegetation structural characteristics.
- 135-36) Your comment is in reference to an Alternative 1 decision which has not been carried forward to the preferred Alternative 4. Other decisions directed to this situation are more specific to the concern for long term care of sage grouse habitat quality.
- 135-37) See general response for watershed withdrawals.
- 135-38) The "yearlong protection" applies to discretionary actions and does not prohibit grazing.
- 135-39) Please refer to the desired plant community descriptions in Appendix 2, final plan, where the DPC goals are directed toward maximizing vegetative habitat characteristics for sage grouse.
- 135-40) Thank you for your comment.
- 135-41) Please refer to the portion of response 52-10 directed at sage grouse guidelines.
- 135-42) We are unaware of any studies demonstrating that improved riparian and watershed conditions result in decreased downstream water yield. If such data exist, we would like to receive a copy of the study. The goal of the Bureau's riparian improvement program is to improve the quality and sustainability of water resources for both upstream and downstream users. See response 52-13 for more information.

135-43) We recognize that wildlife (particularly mule deer) use bitterbrush as a primary forage item seasonally. The Bureau, as you are aware, has no direct ability to influence the legal take of game species. The California Department of Fish and Game, through the state Fish and Game Commission, establishes quotas for game animals.

The intent of our decision is that livestock use of bitterbrush not exceed 30% (on migration corridors and winter range - see final plan) of annual growth. This use by livestock is not expected to measurably influence a species population structure and population growth.

Utilization measurements would be determined using properly designed exclosure plots, transects, individually tagged bitterbrush plants and random leader measurements on tagged plants to establish production and use data.

Separation of vegetation use by livestock and wildlife would be determined using the methodology described previously and timed to record plant production and use by each animal category.

- 135-44) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 135-45A) Mule deer are restricted to relatively small geographic areas during winter. Within these areas they become additionally restricted through their preferred forage of bitterbrush, which typically occurs in clumped aggregations. Any discretionary use of those areas which could adversely affect the amount of preferred forage or their access to it could affect carrying capacity. Discretionary actions are anything for which a permit or other decision document is required.
- 135-45B) The RMP provides a general framework for the fire suppression program. Site specific fire management plans will address individual situations.
- 135-46) Please see response 78-23.

- 135-47) Potential impacts were projected and described in Chapter 4, p.173, draft RMP.
- 135-48) Your reference to "habitat can be improved in the Owens Valley through acquisition of migration corridors' does not quote the decision correctly. The specific decision you reference says "to protect mule deer winter range and the migration corridor." Housing development in the Swall Meadow area has significantly diminished the amount of open space available to mule deer on this portion of the Sherwin-Buttermilk deer herd migration corridor.
- 135-49) Tule elk are restricted to relatively small geographic sites where acceptable calving habitat occurs. Allowing discretionary uses could adversely affect the amount of preferred calving habitat available to elk.
- 135-50) The lack of explanation for the derivation of some impacts is a valid complaint. The analyses of impacts on livestock grazing and minerals have been revised.
- 135-51) Table 2-2 of the draft RMP deals only with the issues as set forth on p.23.

The impacts on livestock grazing are described on pp.200-202 of the draft RMP. These impacts have been revised and are also found in the "grazing" section of Chapter 4 in the final RMP.

135-52) The area-wide and management area Alternative 4 decisions which address mule deer directly or some component of their habitat are directed at the limiting factors to which you refer. Some of the primary limiting factors which affect mule deer habitat quality are mentioned on p.94 of the draft RMP (Wildlife, Alternative 1), as an example.

- 135-53) Sage grouse populations in the Granite Mountain management area are extremely low at present. Addition of a relatively small number of sage grouse to the population would equate to 150%. The few meadows in the management area are mostly in private ownership and are subject to very high forage use which likely affects chick and juvenile grouse survivorship. Improved forage management on meadows would likely improve grouse survivorship.
- 135-54) We recognize the importance of weather, predation and harvest quotas on sage grouse populations. As you have already inferred, the Bureau's concern is with the quality and amount of useable sage grouse habitat. We have addressed the components of sage grouse biology that can be affected by resource management. Our ongoing coordination with other organizations concerning sage grouse habitat management includes factors like weather, predation and hunting quotas.
- 135-55) The time frame for the projected pronghom increase is the 20-year life span of the RIMP, as are the other decisions. If circumstances support a change in the population goal for pronghorn in the Bodile Hills, it would be proposed and mutually agreed to by both agencies.
- 135-56) The definition of the condition classes has been changed and deals only with percentages of Potential Natural Community.
- 135-57) In this case, the terminology is correct. The studies show that there was a loss of vegetation, i.e. vegetation density declined.
- 135-58) The surveys used the same method, the same stands were resurveyed, timing was similar, and personnel were trained. The ratings were not based on ecological condition but on wildlife habitat components and therefore not comparable to ecological condition.
- 135-59) Riparian habitat evaluation was based on a combination of methods recommended by Dr. Bill Platts (Methods for Evaluating Riparian Habitats With Applications to Management 1987), BLM Technical Note 283 (Techniques for Conducting Stream Habitat

Surveys on National Resource Lands 1978), and BLM Technical Reference 1737-2 (Riparian Area Management-Inventory and Monitoring 1987). Methods include both quantitative measures and qualitative evaluations of ecological and habitat conditions. Site potential is based on classification of riparian areas described in BLM Technical Reference 6740-3 (Riparian Area Management-Classification 1987).

- 135-60) Our interest in maintaining the habitat quality goes beyond the benefits afforded to species like sage grouse, pronghorn and others. Populations of invertebrate species are also of value. Livestock grazing in spring-associated wetlands can and does severely degrade site quality, especially when livestock spend the majority of their time in these habitats (data available). The current CRMP process underway in the Bodie Mountain allotment is a example of one way grazing management can be implemented to meet vegetation quality standards. The needs of other land users are considered when changes in grazing management are needed.
- 135-61) The current presence of sensitive plants does not necessarily document the compatibility of livestock grazing and longterm survivorship of sensitive plant populations. Sensitive plant populations meet habitat/population quality criteria which support our concerns against continuing management as usual.
- 135-62) The subjective terms used in the description should be viewed as general ratings, i.e. meeting or not meeting the BLM's direction of management. The quantified ratings for the cited resources are on pp.128, 129, 132, 134, 135, and 136 of the draft RIMP.
- 135-63) Soil compaction has been documented in some areas in the course of conducting other resource component monitoring. In other instances observations and personal knowledge of certain sites were the basis for making the statement, although no written record exists.

- 135-64) According to our information, supplied by the CDF&G, the federal agency which provided the money for the purchase of Slinkard Valley directed the CDF&G to permit livestock grazing on the property. CDF&G has related to us that livestock grazing is not used to meet any wildlife habitat objectives. In fact, they have excluded livestock from a major portion of Slinkard Creek to maintain habitat for trout.
- 135-69. The Bishop Resource Area has one of the most comprehensive current stream riparian inventory and monitoring programs in the Bureau. Individual files are maintained for each stream and complete baseline inventory and monitoring data for all streams were collected in 1978 and 1979. A major monitoring effort also occurred in 1988. To date, a total of 42 permanent stream monitoring stations (210 transacts) and 112 photo points are maintained. The results of these efforts have shown that livestock trampling and overgrazing are the most pervasive impacts on the area's riparian and aquatic habitats. Range monitoring data collected over the past 10 years have also shown that poor livestock distribution continues to result in severe use (81-100% use of current year's growth) of streamside areas. This is especially true in the northern half of the resource area. Monitoring information is on file in the resource area. Monitoring information is on file in the resource area office.
- 135-66) Although the current distribution and number of plants within individual sensitive plant populations appear to be stable, other physical disturbances (which would likely cause changes to individual plants or a population over time) are occurring on some sites.
- 135-67) No direct or implied statement is given in Alternative 1 (page 188, draft RMP) concerning early season grazing effects on quali habitat. Early season continuous livestock grazing, obviously, removes herbaceous forage in meadow/riparian areas otherwise available to sage grouse. Availability of herbaceous vegetation is important to survival of grouse of the year on these areas in mid to late summer when drying of forbs and other annual species has occurred on uplands.

- 135-68) Within the individual management area decisions for Alternatives 1 and 2 are categories like land disposal/acquisition, retention/revocation of watershed withdrawals, meeting or not meeting habitat goals to provide for the possibility of meeting deer herd population goals in CDF&G plans, limiting vegetation disturbance (removal) to a specified amount in migration corridors, and other decisions which should draw your attention to why impact results were different on pp.189 and 190 of the draft RMP.
- 135-69) The impacts are based on man-caused actions. Climate, we atther, and fire do affect vegetation, but they are processes uncontrolled by man. The BLM does after fire effects through suppression, but considering the low frequency of natural fires and the single burn period of a typical eastern Sierra fire it is unlikely that suppression or the lack of it would significantly affect vegetation overall.
- 135-70) The documentation for changes in current management can be found on the following pages of the draft RMP: stream, spring, and water quality surveys on p.129; aspen grove surveys on p.132; riparian surveys on p.134; and sensitive plant habitat on p.136. Other documentation is found in Chapter 3 for individual management areas.

There have been significant changes in some decisions and impacts which concern livestock grazing. See Chapters 2 and 4 in the final RMP.

Mitigation is cited under 40 CFR 1502.14.f which states, 'include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives'. Keeping in mind the management decisions in the MFP and the grazing EISs which are referenced in the draft RMP, there are no appropriate mitigation measures available at this time. The impacts to livestock grazing are considered to be unavoidable adverse impacts. Please see the "Introduction" on p.175 of the draft RMP.

- 135-71) The listings on pp.213-216 (draft RMP) are not complete. As stated on p.213, "Copies of the complete mailing list are on file at the Bishop Resource Area Office." That list includes at least 67 commodity organizations including Resource Concepts Inc., Bodie Consolidated Mining Co., Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, Chevron USA, Inyo Cattlemen's Association, and numerous livestock operators, mining companies, and pack outifits. Some of these should have been included on p.215. Every individual and organization that has requested to be on the mailting list is on it. The California Department of Agriculture was not included. It has been added. The California Farm Bureau Federation has been moved to the list of "Other Organizations."
- 135-72) Stubble height objectives in the DPCs were based on the most current information pertaining to residual herbage requirements for streambank protection and natural streambank rebuilding processes. Though Elmore (1988) indicates the need for 3 to 4 inches of herbaceous vegetation during peak flow periods, a recent review of the literature by Webster and Clary (Riparian Grazing Guidelines for the Intermountain West 1990) found that most stubble height recommendations fall within the range of 4 to 6 inches. As a result, Webster and Clary recommend a minimum herbage stubble height of 4 to 6 inches be present on all streamside areas at the end of the growing season, or at the end of the grazing season, whichever is later. They also state that the maintenance or improvement of easily eroded streambanks (a condition found on most streams in the resource area) may require stubble heights of greater than 6 inches.
- 135-73) The information you request will be part of the public record. We have removed the 750-1000 lbs/acre figure from the DPC description. In its place we now indicate that a minimum of 2.0 lbs. per adult pronghorn per day of air-dry forage be available.
- 135-74) The vegetation overhang and shading parameters in the DPC on p.243 of the draft plan are well within the site potential of streams within the indicated management areas. These parameters are included in the RIMP to provide direction in management for future action plans. 'Shade' is a function of the

cover measurement, which can be recorded during any daylight hour.

- 135-75) VRM II classification would likely dictate the shape, color, or location of structural range improvements, or require certain mitigations. If adequate mitigation is not feasible or cost effective, a project may not be implementable. A VRM I classification would severely restrict new range improvements. However, no impacts are expected to range permittees because no proposals are expected for VRM I areas. A site-specific environmental assessment would document visual and other resource concerns.
- 135-76) The decision concerning the 60% use level has been changed. See the Area-Wide decisions in Chapter 2 of the final RMP.

It is expected that any area having a deferred or rotation grazing treatment of meadows will be under an AMP or CRMP as per the SOP.

- 135-77) Thank you for your comment.
- 135-78) Admittedly, trampling effects are difficult to monitor, more so than forage utilization. The intent is to consider the on-site impacts of trampling if they are readily apparent and establish some parameters on what level is acceptable. We expect to work with livestock permittees to identify problem areas and reasonable solutions.
- 135-79) Thank you for your comment.
- 135-80,81) The word "normally" was included to allow for flexibility. Construction costs, terrain, site medium, or impacts to other resources may prohibit combliance with this SOP.

All actions must be analyzed as per NEPA, therefore the decision level is the Area Manager, and the mechanism is the environmental assessment. The EA could have a number of locations as alternatives.

- 135-82) The standard operating procedure you reference has been deleted from the final RMP.
- 135-83) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 135-84) The 200-foot area on either side of roadways is intended to maintain an undisturbed natural setting. Also, in dense shrub or tree areas, hiding cover for mule deer and other species is maintained, lessening their physical displacement by passing vehicles.
- 135-85,86) The rest period is for vegetation establishment and achievement of plant vigor to withstand grazing. Premature livestock grazing would uproot seedlings and reduce mature plants' reproduction potential, therefore grazing would not enhance recovery. Livestock movement would enhance recovery by breaking up the soil surface and planting dispersed seeds. This type of livestock trailing could still be used for fire recovery under this SOP and would be surfaced through a site-specific activity plan for rehab.
- 135-87) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 135-88) Multiple use does not mean that all uses will be allowed on every acre of public land. There are times when objectives are not multiple use oriented, i.e. recovery of threatened or endangered species.

The BLM is in agreement with the last two sentences of the paragraph.

- 135-89) Vegetative goals have been set within the RMP for many, if not all, of the areas in which you have expressed an interest. Those goals incorporate the ability to continue our multiple use mandates.
- 135-90) The practicality of riparian improvement and restoration efforts will be based primarily on riparian site potential. Funding for improvement will be directed toward those streams with the greatest potential to respond. The Area Manager will have final

say in determining which riparian restoration efforts receive priority.

- 135-91) ACEC designation itself does not provide protection. It provides a focus for 'special management attention' (management prescriptions to protect the important and relevant values of an area BLM Manual 1613.12) that is not provided by areawide prescriptions. The protection gould be provided without the ACEC designation, but the idea is to identify areas requiring special attention and to focus on them.
- 135-92) See table 3-1, final RMP.
- 135-93) On May 21, 1990, we sent a letter to our mailing list summarizing the results of workshops held in April on the draft RMP/EIS. As a result of the workshops, seven specific changes were made in the alternatives including the deletion of two ACECs from the preferred alternative. Suggestions for the impact analysis were also generated. Copies of this letter are available at the Resource Area upon request. The many changes that have been made as a result of the comment letters, including this one, are further evidence of public input.
- 135-94) The RMP is the management tool by which "resource managers" (Area Manager, District Manager, etc.) decide on the basic land use allocations and resource condition objectives. Is your concern that this RMP imposes so many restrictions that cooperative management teams working to integrate livestock, wildlife, and other interests will not have enough room to maneuver? We understand and appreciate this, and feel confident that DPCs and other aspects of the RMP can be implemented so as to alleviate that concern.

KEATING ASSOCIATES

CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS

847 PACIFIC ST PLACERVILLE, CALIF. 9 PHONE: (916) 622-

CERTIFIED MAIL - RRR

January 15, 1991

Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 No. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, Ca 93514-2498

Reference: Draft Bishop Resource (RMP/IES)

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

I am the license applicant on the Pine Creek Hydroelectric Project, |36-| FERC #3258, pending before the FERC since 1982.

This valuable resource is capable of producing over 22,000,000 Kwh of clean, dispatchable electric energy per year from its 8.5 Mw capacity plants. I request that this renewable resource project not be precluded from development because of any pending action related to this Management Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Keating Joseph M. Keating License Applicant RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 136 (Joseph M. Keating)

136-1) Thank you for your comment.



Office of the . . . BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MONO

COURTHOUSE - BRIDGEPORT - CALIFORNIA - 91517

District No. 5 RESIDENCE PO Box 43 vh Lakes, CA 93546 (619) 934-2877 OFFICE HCR 79, Box 221 moth Laker, CA 93546

16191 934 0462

January 17, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P. Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mike:

137-1

137-2

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Draft Bishop Resource Impact Statement. Let me begin by saving that I find the plan an enlightened management direction for the BLM. The approach and emphasis on establishing enhanced environmental standards as reflected in wildlife, wetlands, riparian and plants, as well as establishing ACEC's is to be commended. I also appreciate the designation of Route 395 as a Scenic Byway. Hwy 395 is one of the "Crown Jewels" of California and the nation and deserves such recognition.

Of particular concern to me is the issue of Bodie and its historic importance and the issue of mining in general.

Bodie specifically must be protected for both its historic and resource values. The proposed withdrawals for the Bodie Bowl, as listed in Alternate III, should be pursued as it is essential for the protection and maintenance of the integrity of the area. The VRM standards must be consistent with this as well as the necessity of establishing boundaries for ne National Historic Landmark. The approval of the RMP must allow for the final designation of the Landmark if it is not already established prior to the adoption of the final plan.

It is important to note that the Mono County Board of Supervisors has received over 600 letters expressing concern and need for protection of Bodie and its Historic significance. In no way should there be any activity which impinges on the sanctity of Bodie and its aura of timeless history.

Mining: Mining was a boom and bust industry a hundred years ago and is so today. The long term sustainable value of Mono County will be due to the thoughtful attention and care of our natural resources, historic values and recreation opportunity. The 1972 Mining Law is presently a fact, albeit and anachronism in today's world. Nevertheless, the Endangered Species Act provides protection of endangered species and takes precedence over mining activities. Thus lands should be withdrawn from mineral entry that provide habitat for federally listed threatened. endangered or candidate species. Habitats for state-listed species should be withdrawn as well. There should be withdrawals for Geothermal leasing to protect unique and endangered species or wildlife in the Southern Volcanic Tablelands of the Benton M.A., the 3 mile buffer against geothermal development around the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, Travertine Hot Springs, and Virginia Creek. Additionally all proposed ACEC's and mineral withdrawal corridors along the Wild and Scenic River candidates should be withdrawn from entry.

Regarding the issue of the watershed withdrawals: I strongly support the 137-4 creation and designation of a National Conservation Area. This would allow protection of the watershed without the inappropriate operous emphasis on the protection for the sole purpose of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Creation of a National Conservation Area would indeed demonstrate that federal watershed withdrawals are firmly protecting and observing the watershed interests of all the people of the United States who are the proprietors of our federal lands.

> In closing, I would again like to express my appreciation to you and your staff for the management direction you are taking and look forward to the final plan!

Sincerely yours,

ii ___ nL Andrea Lawrence Supervisor, District 5 County of Mono

Al/dib

137-3

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 137 (Andrea Lawrence, Mono County Supervisor)

- 137-1) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 137-2) Please see the general responses for Bodie (p.5-5) and for minerals (p.5-13).
- 137-3) As you acknowledge, the Endangered Species Act takes precedence over the 1872 mining law. Mineral withdrawals are not needed to protect endangered species habitat. See the general response for minerals.
- 137-4) Thank you for your support.

Resources Building 1416 Ninth Street

(916) 445-5656 TDD (916) 324-0804

Dalifornia Conservation Corps Repartment of Beeling and Waterways Repartment of Conservation Repartment of Fish and Game Repartment of Parks and Repression Repartment of Parks and Repression Repartment of Water Resources *GEORGE SECRETARIAN
GOVERNOR OF

GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA Air Resources Board California Coastal Commissio California Tahon Conservano California Waste Management

Board Colorado River Board Energy Resources Conservable And Development Commissi-San Francisco Bay Conservate

and Davelopment Commisser State Coastel Conservancy State Lands Division State Rectamation Board State Water Resources Control Board

Regional Water Quality Control Boards

January 17, 1991

U. S. Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area ATTM: Area Manager 787 N. Main Street, Suite P

Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Area Manager:

The State has reviewed the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Inyo and Mono Counties, submitted through the Office of Planning and Research.

We coordinated review of this document with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the State Lands Commission, and the Departments of Conservation, Fish and Game, Health Services, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation.

The Department of Conservation has provided the attached comments for your consideration.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review this project.

Sincerely.

Maril a Jayon

Marold F. Waraas

Massistant Secretary

Administration/Finance

Attachment

cc: Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (SCH 88110304) S'ate of California

139-1

138-2

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

Memorandum

To Dr. Gordon F. Snow
Assistant Secretary for Resources

Mr. Holden Brink U. S. Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street Bishop. CA 93514 Dete December 7, 1990

Subject Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bishop Resource Management Plan, 8CH# 88110304

row . Department of Conservation—Office of the Director
The Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology (DMC)
The Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Environmental
Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. We
offer the following comments.

There is a possibility that economically sinable mineral deposits, which include locateable and salable minerals, exist in areas that will affactively be eliminated from development when the Resource greatest potentially economic mineral deposits, and for that reason are of particular concern to DMG, include the Bodde Hills RA and the South Impv MA. The EIS acknowledges that the Bodde Hills RA contains economic mineral deposits, and according to a mineral land assessment composit mineral deposits, and according to a mineral land assessment economic mineral deposits; fablue and others, 1985.

The EIS presents four resource management alternatives for the Bishop Resource Area. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4), allows significantly less development of mineral deposits than is allowed presently with the No Action/Continuation of Present Management (Alternative 1), particularly in the Bodie Hills MA and the South Inyo MA. The Custodial Management (Alternative 2) offers the least restriction towards potential mineral deposit development, especially in the Bodie Hills MA and the South Inyo MA.

DNG views potentially significant and significant mineral deposits as a vital resource. Because the implementation of the Preferred Alternative effectively eliminates relatively great amounts of mineral deposits from development, DNG recommends that the other alternatives be considered when a decision is made for these Management Areas.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Roger Martin, Division of Mines and Geology Environmental Review Project Manager, at (916) 322-2562.

Dennis J. O'Bryant
Environmental Program Coordinator

cc: Roger Martin, Division of Mines and Geology Catherine Gaggini, Division of Mines and Geology Mr. Holden Brink December 7, 1990 Page Two

References:

Sabine, C., Cather, E.E., Kuizon, L., and Horn, M.C., 1986, Kineval Resources of the Southern Inyo Study Area, Inyo County, California; United Sates Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Mineral Land Assessment Open File Report 55-64.



State of California

GOVERNORS OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
9ACRAMENTO 95814

(916) 323-7480

January 17, 1991

DATE:

U. S. Bureau of Land Management TO: Bishop Resource Area ATTN: Area Manager

ATTN: Area Manager 787 N. Main Street, Suite P

Bishop, CA 93514

FROM: Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

RE: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Inyo and Mono Counties (88110304)

As the designated California Single Point of Contact, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, the Office of Planning and Research transmits attached comments as the State Process Recommendation.

This recommendation is a consensus; no opposing comments have been received. Initiation of the "accommodate or explain" response by-your agency is, therefore, in effect.

Attachment

cc: Applicant

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 138 (California Department of Conservation)

- Please see the general responses for Bodie (p.5-5) and for minerals (p.5-13).
- 138-2) The draft Bishop RMP does emphasize recreational and wildlife resources over the traditionally-emphasized uses of mining and livestock grazing. However, in spite of this emphasis, 97% of the resource area remains open to locatable mineral mining. VRM-1 and -2 restrictions apply to 37% of the areas of high and medium mineral potential in the Resource Area. These VRM classifications do not preclude mining, which is a temporary activity, but rather describe long-term goals for visual resources after reclamation of mining or protest is completed.



139-1

HIGH DECERT MULTIPLE-USE COALITION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1167, RIDGECREST, CA. 93556



Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

January 16, 1991

Dear Sirs:

- Please accept the following comments regarding the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.
- The plan, in many places is very hard to follow and requires a large amount of back-tracking through several pages. This plan ie extremely vague does not really provide much information beyond generalities.

2. Although many actions are proposed, no specifics are given. Expansion of trout habitat is indicated for Cottonwood Greek, however, no sention of the specific site, or the extent of the proposed action is given. Raptor habitat is sentioned, however, nothing is provided regarding the particular species or site. Developments are also briefly sentioned, but again, are also briefly sentioned, but again, the sent of the se

BODIE MANAGEMENT AREA

- 1. Do not limit motorized recreational access in areas of wildlife concentrations without adequate documentation confrients; significant negative impact from recreational use. Studies indicate that samy wildlife species are alinially impacted by OHV use. (Dames & Hoore, Western Ecological Services Company, Inc., 1985; Ferris & Kutile, San Jose State University, 1989.)
- 2. While we generally support the lististion of recreational target shooting in the Bodie State Park area, we are strongly opposed to extending the limit to the ban of firearms or hunting within the 200 vaributfer zone.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREA

The introduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout should not be allowed to create a conflict with existing recreational activities. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout should be planted within wilderness areae of the Inyo and Toylabe National Forests to maxistize protection.

2. Consider the available habitat in adjacent Forest Service lands before allowing the management of raptors to create a conflict with existing recreational activities.

LONG VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

1. The year-long protection for the deer corridor should not diminish existing recreational motor vehicle use or hunter access.

BENTON MANAGEMENT AREA

- 139-7 1. It seems futile to create a Scenic By Way along a road where disposal of federal land is being considered.
- The development of new habitat for any consitive species should not disinish existing recreational opportunities. The development of additional habitat for wildlife should be limited to wilderness areas to avoid the creation of additional conflicts.
- 3. The more restrictive VRM seems impossible with the extensive mining in the Queens Canyon, Mustang Point, Sugarloaf, and Montgomery City areas. This area has been extensively impacted in the past on both sides of the highway particularly by the abandoned railroad right-of-way.

OVENS VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA

- The year-long Protection of Round valley signation corridor
 seasonal protection of Round Valley, Nonache, and Goodale
 deer winter range should not list existing recreational access
 routes. These routes are few and do not penetrate far into the
 habitat. There is wast winter range available in adjacent inyo
 National Forest addinistered lands that are closed to whitcular
- Recreational motor vehicle access should be maintained at the string levels in the caliving areas. The Tule Elk are apparently doing quite well because they have currently over populated their available habitat. Elk can be frequently found on public lands and cultivated fields immediately adjacent to hishway 395.
 - 3. As wildlife habitat is created care should be taken not to manufacture additional recreational conflicte.

SOUTH INYO MANAGEMENT AREA

139-12

1. An ACEC for the protection of Bristlecone and Limber Pine is unnecessary. Limber Pine exists in numerous locations and Bristlecone Pines are protected in the Ancient Bristlecone Forest within the Invo National Forest a few miles north of this area.

2. As habitat is expanded for the tule elk, mule deer, Owens tui chub. Owens pupfish, and other wildlife; the BLM administered, as well as the Forest Service administered, wilderness areas should be utilized as much as possible to avoid conflicts.

OWENS LAKE MANAGEMENT AREA

139-13

1. Continue existing recreational routes along Ash Creek.

2. Do not introduce Owens pupfish and Owens tui chub into areas that will create conflicts. Seek areas for these species in existing wilderness areas.

3. Cottonwood Creek is a very popular and easily accessible recreation area do not limit access below existing levels.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

139-14

1. The plan does not adequately consider the wildlife habitat on lands adjacent to BLM jurisdiction. Deer habitat, particularly on the western portion of the Owens Valley Management Area is immediately adjoining enormous tracts of deer habitat with little or no conflicting recreational activities.

2. While this document sites numerous wildlife values, not a single wildlife study is listed in the cited references. This leaves the impression that the wildlife concerns are speculative and not necessarily substantiated by scientific studies.

3 The EIS implies that current unbigular uses are negatively impacting the Tule Elk Herd, However, the Tule Elk Herd is currently in a condition of over population. This situation creates the potential for numerous conflicts with agriculture. private property, as well as detrimental impacts to the herd itself. It is our understanding that all current habitat for the Tule Elk is currently at it's capacity.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. The concept of a Desired Plant Community (DPC) management [39-[5] program for non-sensitive vegetation appears to be an extremely costly proposal.

139-15 cont.

2. Recreational motorized access should not be reduced in DPC areas for non-threatened plant species. Studies seem to indicate that OHV activity may not be causing as much negative impact to the vegetation or soils as originally believed. (Stow, 1988, BLM contract no. CA950-CT8-23)

VISUAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

139-16

1. The proposed visual quality goals are possibly over optimistic for most of the area. In some cases the existing impacts to the viewshed currently exceed the proposed standard.

2. The proposed visual quality is too rigid and may not be compatible with the current OHV planning effort.

RECREATION

139-17

1. Hunting on public lands is a traditional and legitimate recreation activity and we question the Bureau of Land Management's authority to regulate or close certain areas to hunting.

2. This document grossly underestimates the number of deer hunters using the various management areas.

3. More four-wheel-drive scenic back-country byways should be included in plan.

4. Due to the enormous amounts of primitive recreational opportunities available on adjacent wilderness areas and the numerous developed recreation sites, emphasis should be on semiprimitive recreation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments express our concern.

Sincerely.

Ron Schiller, Chairman

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 139 (High Desert Multiple-Use Coalition)

- 139-1) Your questions regard a level of specificity that is answered in individual project action plans,
- 139-2) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 139-3) The shooting prohibition in the Bodie Bowl has been modified in the final RMP to consider a boundary that is more practical.
- 139-4) Lahontan cutthroat trout are not proposed for introduction into the Granite Mountain management area. This species is identified for introduction to suitable habitat in the Bodie Hills and Coleville management areas. Introduction is designed to bring about removal from the federal endangered species list. Access for recreation would be maintained on any stream where this species occurs.
- 139-5) Your comment has been considered in the final plan,
- 139-6) Recreational access would not be affected in the Long Valley deer migration corridor by the yearlong protection criteria.
- 139-7) Alternative 4 of the final RMP for the Benton Management Area prescribes no scenic byway.
- 139-8) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 139-9) The more restrictive visual resource management (VRM) class is designed to provide additional protection to the existing scenic quality of the area and in the long term reduce cumulative and incremental visual impacts. Note that parameters to guide VRM application have been added to the final RMP in Chapter 1, Standard Operating Procedures. This provides the Bureau some flexibility in applying the VRM criteria. For example, existing contrasts are acknowledged.

Although the increased VRM classes would restrict some offhighway vehicle opportunities, many vehicle routes would probably be unaffected with ample opportunities still available for touring and access.

- 139-10) See response 139-6.
- 139-11) Recreational access would not be affected in elk calving areas.
- 139-12) The Bristlecone/Limber Pine areas in the Inyo Mountain range met the ACEC criteria and the designation has been carried forward into the final RMP. The ACEC criteria do not include consideration of ecosystem representation.
- 139-13) Site specific vehicle route designations will be identified in the upcoming activity plans.
- 139-14) Our concern in this planning document is with Bureau administered land.

The wildlife study information is part of the public record and was used to develop the RMP.

Vehicular use combined with a number of other potential human activities is expected to diminish habitat quality over the 20 year life of this plan.

- 139-15) Recreational access in or near DPC areas would not be restricted. Please see Standard Operating Procedure #8, p.270 regarding new roads.
- 139-16) Please see response 139-9.

139-17) Prohibition of shooting is prescribed for an area in the Bodie Bowl ACEC. Our intent is to work with the California State Parks and Recreation, the California Department of Fish and Game and others to implement the prescription.

The deer hunting estimates were based on field observations of Bureau staff as well as consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game. Over the last several years, hunting use in the resource area has been low.

One backcountry byway was proposed for the Bodie Hills area in the RMP. Other opportunities can be considered in the route designation/activity plan process to optimize touring access needs and benefits to the public land user.

The overall RMP emphasis is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities and settings for public lands in the resource area. Few facilities have been proposed. Please see the recreation element in Chapter 3 of the draft RMP for further information.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RIDGECREST RESOURCE AREA 300 S. RICHMOND ROAD RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA 93855 Telephons (61) 375-7125



Memorandum

AN 18 1001

To: Area Hanager, Bishop (CA-017)

From: Area Manager, Ridgacrest

Subject: Review of Bishop RMP

"inve reviewed the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Ridgecrast staff and I appreciate the assistance and courtemy of your staff, aspecially Roldem Brink, in coordinating with us on common issues. I well understand the magnitude of effort needed to complete a plan of this size and complaxity.

140-1A

by concarns are limited to the proposed willity corridor through soldier Canyon (Mestaged Pases) Fince to forwarding your final recommendations to the Bakerefield District (Menager and the State Director, I hope you will reconsider the salection of this portion of the preferred alterentive. I recommend that this corridor not be designated in the final decision, or if it comes while, in Proposed are concluded as follows:

 The Praft NBO/RIS makes a comparison of the Soldier Canyon Corridor versus the Quean Valley Corridor (U.S. Highway 6 -Montgomary Pass). The result is a subjective conclusion that the Soldier Caryon Corridor would be less environmentally impecting than Queen Valley. This view seems based on a rationals that thoma are sons sensitive recoveres in Quant Valley than in Soldier

No believe that this is not a resonable conclusion, and say not be substantiated by data. It may seen valid because there are none known that the substantiate of the

140-1B

The utility industry identified its preference for the Queen Valley route as part of its regional plane as early as the Western Utility Group's 1980 Mestern Resional Corridor. Study. In the group's 1986 Mestern Resional Corridor. Study. the Soldier Canyon route was specifically deleted. As a result, the repical grid or route was specifically deleted. He are result, the regional grid or group the property of the

140-IB

Adoption of the proposed alternative would, in effect, constitute a disruption of the corridor grid already established in Nevada and California, and invalidates planning decisions of BLM and U.S. Porget Service jurisdictions at least as far east as Utah.

140-IC

The Deaft BMS states that the adjoining MLM jurisdictions have agreed to evaluate the continuation of the Soldier Canyon Cortidor into their boundaries during their nest planning cycle. This is not true for the CDCA. The CDCA Plan of 1980, as memoded, allows for the designation of new utility corridors only in response to a specific proposed project, and only following a complete EIS,

Therefore, the California Desert District would not consider adding this corridor until a specific project is proposed and studied. This may not be a major point, but perhaps should be clarified in the Final RMP so that corridor users will not sixunderstand.

140-ID

In conclusion, I am concerned that the scope of the study completed regarding designation of Soldier Canyon and exclusion of Queen Valley may not be adequate to allow a fully reasoned doctision. Both routes appear to have advantages and disadvantages and cororidor use, and the premature selection of Soldier Canyon over Queen Valley may have long-term magative impacts. Therefore, I recommend that the RPW either designate both routes as "planning" corridors to be studied fully upon a specific proposal, or that matther be completed.

Thank you again for consulting with us, and please let me know if I can be of assistance.

CCI CA-060 CA-060.2 CA-063 CA-010 RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 140 (BLM, Ridgecrest Resource Area)

- 140-1A) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas sections of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 140-1B) See the Western Utility Group's December 4, 1990 letter expressing its full support of the corridor study portion of the draft RMP. It also states that information in the final RMP will be included in the 1990/1991 update of their Western Regional Corridor Study. The letter expresses no opposition to the draft RMP's preferred alternative of identifying the Soldier Carryon area as a planning corridor area. See also the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas and the Need Analysis sections of the general response for the corridor study.
- 140-1C) The final RMP states that adjoining BLM jurisdictions will evaluate the impacts of an eastward extension of any designated east-west corridor area either as part of their next land management planning cycle or in response to a specific project. See the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the interagency transmission line corridor study.
- 140-1D) The impacts section of the final RMP have been rewritten to more clearly display the differences in environmental impacts between the three east-west alternative corridor areas considered in the study, providing a better rationale for the final decision. See also the Impacts of Corridor Area Designation section of the general response for the corridor study.



P.O. BOX 25 SANTA ANA, CA 92

Reply to: Richard E. Kust 55 Seton Road lrvine, CA 92715 (714) 788-8878

January 16, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Sir.

I am writing to urge you to adopt Alternative 3, the natural resource enhancement alternative, for the Resource Management Plan. Many of our 2700 seebers are frequent visitors to the Eastern Sierra, inyo and Mono counties, and Bodie State Historic Park. They value the natural resources of this area and want them corotacted and enhanced.

Alternative 3 is preferred by us, but there are some very necessary actions which should be taken which are missing from this alternative:

141-1

 No mineral development should be permitted in the lands adjacent to Bodie State Historic Park because of the threat to the preservation of this site.

141-2

 Alternative 3 does not provide for sufficient wilderness areas. Certainly all the roadless wilderness study areas should be protected from road building, and off road wechicles should be restricted from these areas, as well as other Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

141-3

 Grazing restrictions should follow after a careful assessment of range conditions - over-grazing is all too common, and must be prevented from further degrading the range.

We are pleased with the Wild and Scenic River eligibility outlined in Alternative 3, and urge further study towards eventual

141-4

recommendation for protected status. Private lands should be acquired to complete them, to increase the total miles of streams thus protected.

141-5

Also we like the addition of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, the elimination of the proposed utility corridor in a wilderness study area, and the acquisition of 10,000° acreas of fish, wildlifes, and recreation lands.

We strongly urge you to adopt Alternative 3, and the points' mentioned above in order to protect this valuable area. Thank you for considering our viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Richard & Kust

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 141 (Sea & Sage Audubon)

- 141-1) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).
- 141-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. For your comments on off-highway vehicles (OHV), please see eneral response to comments of OHV management (p.5-8).
- 141-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11). Areas receiving unacceptable levels of livestock use have been identified and will be mitigated through allotment management plans and range projects.
- 141-4) Please see response 69-7.
- 141-5) Your comments in support of Alternative 3 have been noted.

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

January 16, 1001

After reviewing the draft Fishon Require Nanopeant. Plan and Environmental Impact Statement RMPP.1 Letrompty Repl that you have chosen the wrong alternative. Your preferred alternative, 83, does MOT adequately provide for multiple use. Of the listed alternatives. Alternative 82 comes closest to providing for multiple sufferent Mountain therefore have been chosen as your multiple sufferent Mountains.

Although there are nany oroblems with the preferred alternative, the biggest oroblem is that if does not adequately address partics. The Domestic Livestock Grazing Management Programs (DGPM) developed in the part VISGO's never did address orazing as it actually operating to multiple use. That is because GPAZING populings at JUTHEN 1885 OF THE LAND.

By the time that the Etcho PMF is finally:, those DLEMPF's will be over a decade old. Livestock owners have continuously violated fence and ricarian mandate from the DLEMPG, wet the Bishoo office has been ineffective in stooping these violations. Since the current olans are not working, they should have Dean officers, on the new PMF, as was suggested during the scoping officers.

The Bishop GMP croposes to deal with overgrazing by maintaining a system of Desired Plant Community (DFC) levels. Not because of loose wording, the clan actually offers on protection. Instead of the property of the propert

- Furthermore, the statement of page 25 of the RMP must be changed from "To the extent cractical, riporian areas will be maintained, restored, or improved," to "Piparian areas will be restored or improved."
- | FLPMA Section 202(c)(") requires your agency to weigh long-term
 for the to the oublic against short-term benefits. Since the
 draft RMP and the proceeding DLGMPs fail to address orazing
 under this section, the final RMP will need to prove how the
 public can benefit, over the long-term. From having livestock on
 reports (including those by the Semeral Accounting Office) thow
 that the qublic 'not to mention native clant and anieal species)
 will, in no way, benefit from having livestock on the dublic

5-427

142-3 cont. I Lands.

Finally, when the Final RMP is written, the definition of Alternative %3 will have to be changed. Natural Resource Enhancement and livestock grazing ar a contradiction in terms. If there are cattle or sheep on the land, all the natural resources lose.

Sincerely, Hank Levine Hank Levine Hank Levine Hank Jewes Hammoth Lakes. CA 93546 Henry Jewne RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 142 (Hank Levine)

142-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

- 142-2) Decisions in the RMP provide specific direction to restore, maintain and protect riparian areas. Specific decisions include yearlong protectionfrom discretionary actions, managing riparian vegetation to meet DPC goals, and targeting specific stream systems for restoration efforts. These decisions are largely a result of the Area Manager's Guidelines that "to the extent practical, riparian areas will be maintained, restored or improved." Implementation of these decisions requires the development of 'practical' projects and management schemes.
- 142-3) The BLM manages under the multiple use concept. Livestock grazing is one of the uses and with proper management is generally compatible with the resources found on public land, and beneficial to certain resources. The key is proper management. It is the intent of the RMP to fine-tune the grazing EIS decisions in order to achieve the proper management. The impacts of Alterative 4 are considered to be beneficial to the resources as a whole.

JAMINEY 17, 1991

DORR BLM AREN MAUNGER

IT 15 MY UNDESTINATION THAT SOUTHER CHIMANIN PRESENTLY SUPPERS.
FIRM ON EXECUTED HONORTHMAN, 45 IT WAS BE EXTREMENT DIPPORULT FOR THE
BL.M. TO GRANT PERMISSION UNDER THOSE CONTROL

YOU HAVE HEAR OF WARR ROTHWING WAY NOT ELECTRICALY PATTAUNIC!

THAT DO I IN THE OWERS VALLEY HAVE TO SLEPPE FROM THE MATTA IMPACTS
OF THREAMPOSOW LINE COMMUTTON TO SUPPORT THE ENDROY INFERENCESSES OF
SOUTHERM CALIFORMS AT SAME UTILITIES, SAWING ELECTRICALY IS DONN THE
MOST PROTECTION PART OF THUS BROWNESS.

IF YOU WHUS LIPE FLETTHEE INFORMATION ON ENERGY AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES AS A PAIR TO GLOBAN SCILLETY I STRUMELY
RECOMMEND THAT YOU CAMEET THE PROCESS CREEK ROAD
1739 SUMMENUS CREEK ROAD

SNOWMASS, COLORADO 81654-9199

THINK You, 303-927-3851

KIER PUBLAR STAR RT. 4, BOX 114-8, BISHOP, C1.9354

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 143 (Rick Puskar)

143-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16) and Appendix 8 of the draft RMP.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 144 (D. Bryan Goodell)

144-1) Your comment supporting these disposals has been noted.

January 16, 1991

Mr. Mike Fergerson 787 N. Main St. Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Fergerson,

| I would like to express my support for potential land releases, of lands ajacent to Momo City and Cottonwood Canyon Road within Momo County Districts 3 and 4.

Sincerely,

D. Bryan Goodell

D. Bryan Gooderr

STATE OF CAUFORNIA

ISSE MANAGE

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governo

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD— LAHONTAN REGION 2009 LIMET LANGE ROLLEVAND P.O. BOLD FASTE SOUTH LAKE TAMOR, CALIFORNIA. 99791-2428



January 16, 1991

Michael A. Ferguson, Area Manager U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop. California 93514-2498

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

COMMENTS REGARDING THE BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (BORPH-EIS) will be understand that the intent of the BORPH-EIS is to provide general direction 1999 of the Plan and the Plan

145-1

The BMP-IIS includes descriptions of four management alternatives. We support choice of Alternative 3 Metural Resource Chancement as the alternative which would best protect mater quality and beneficial uses of Management is associated to manager resources for suitiple uses. Alternative Mo. 4 Preferred Alternative includes many management provisions which will protect water mould by. Management provisions which will not be a suitiple uses. Alternative includes many management provisions which will not be a suitiple and by the management provisions of the suitiple water and the management provisions of the suitiple water and the management provisions of the suitiple water and the s

Coleville Management Area

- Maintain and improve riparian habitat for mountain beavers and the reintroduction of cutthroat trout.
- Enhance watershed conditions to increase habitat diversity on riparian areas and to control erosion.
- Monitor water quality to determine the impacts of cattle and recreational use.

M.A. Ferguson

145-1

 Implement measures to restore meadows and control erosion in Slinkard Valley and Little Antelope Valley to improve riparian habitat.

Bridgeport Management Area

- Withdrawal of portions of Dog Creek and Virginia Creek from locatable mineral exploration and development.
- Maintain Travertine Hot Springs to protect threatened and endangered species habitat.

Bodie Hills Management Area

- Enhance watershed conditions on 95 acres of riparian land to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.
- 2. Stabilize and restore selected streams (Aurora Canyon, Not Springs Canyon, Rough Creek and all tributaries, Atastra Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Bodie Creek, Clark Canyon and Clearwater Creek) to improve aquatic habitat. Specific improvements to include increased base flow and channel storage capacity; reduce turbidity and sedimentation; decrease summer water femmerature.
- Conduct water quality inventories near mining activity. (We suggest that you also include water quality monitoring to determine impacts from mining activities).

Granite Mountain Management Area

- Manage eight acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.
- 2. Manage wet meadows to control erosion.
- Stabilize and restore Adobe Creek to increase base flow and channel water storage capacity, and to limit artificial streambank alterations.
- 4. Fence waterfowl nesting areas and springs from livestock use.
- 5. Retain wildlife and fishery habitat on Wilson Creek.

Long Valley Management Area

- Mitigate impacts to hot springs areas to protect threatened and endangered species, riparian areas and wet meadows.
- Manage 35 acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.

145-1

Benton Management Area

- Manage 20 acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.
- Manage habitats to protect the following endangered and unique species: Great Basin springsnail, Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub and Owens speckled dace.
- Maintain the Fish Slough area as protected wetland habitat for the Owens pupfish.

Owens Valley Management Area

- 1. Manage 165 acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to
- 2. Acquire 1,106 acres at Hogback Creek to protect riparian vegetation.
- Manage stream reaches in Horton, Goodale and Tuttle Creek campgrounds to improve streambank stability and instream habitat.
- Stabilize and restore stream reaches to improve riparian and aquatic habitat in Sawmill, Symmes, Taboose, Goodale, Independence and Horton Creeks.
- Acquire 240 acres at Lubkin Creek to protect Great Basin springsnail and Owens dace habitats.
- Acquire 120 acres at Graham Ranch Spring to protect springsnail habitat and to reintroduce Owens pupfish.

South Inyo Management Area

- Manage 3 acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.
- 2. Maintain habitat for Great Basin springsnail.

Owens Lake Management Area

- Establish Section 22 spring and Braley Creek as refuges for Owens pupfish and Owens tui chub; withdraw Braley Creek and Section 22 spring from locatable mineral exploration and development.
- Manage seven acres of riparian areas to increase habitat diversity and to control erosion.
- 3. Fence Cartago, Cottonwood and Braley Creeks to exclude livestock.

M.A. Ferguson

-4-

145-1

We request that you notify us of land management activities which involve any of the following:

- Proposed use of any pesticides, such as rotenone, for reintroduction of listed and candidate plant and animal species. Proposed reintroduction of threatened or endangered species.
- 2. Proposed hydroelectric and "minihydro" development.
- Proposed development of additional OHV trails, especially those which involve stream crossings.
- 4. Proposed development of mineral and geothermal resources.
- Proposed timber harvest plans, including fuelwood harvests and salvage sales.
- 6. Proposed wildfire suppression methods, particularly methods which involve use of chemicals.

We compliment you and your staff on the very good work you have completed on a very sizable task. If you have any questions on our comments, please contact me at (916) 544-3481.

Sincerely, Condy Roger Cindy Roger

Sanitary Engineering Associate

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 145 (Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board)

145-1) Your support of the listed provisions from Alternative 4 has been noted. The Bureau plans to make every effort to notify Regional Water Quality Control Boards prior to initiating any project that would affect water quality.



146-1

California Parks and Conservation Association P.O. Box 28412, Sacramento, California 95828-0412

January 14, 1991

Mike Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CX 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

as you say mose, the Cultornia Farks and Conservation Association is a statestic citizens group concerned with the protection and amangement of California's federal, state and regional parklands. It takes a strong interest in the California state park system and, as a result, is concerned about the threat posed to Bodie SIP by the possible development of a large mining operation or adjacent property.

We have reviewed the Bureau's draft Resource Management Plan and Devironmental Impact Statement covering the 750,000 acres within the Bishop District. We have examined those portions of the various sections of the document which deal with Bodie itself or the lands near Bodie.

The CrCh believes that the greater Bodie area, the toomsite and the viscebed surrounding it, is of great historic significance. The toomsite viscebed surrounding it, is of great historic significance. The toomsite viscebed in the surrounding ridgetope contain significant and complimentary historic sites, structures and artifacts. In didition, these lands - in their present condition - are a necessary part of the historic body in the second condition is a significant and complimentary the second condition in the second condition of the second condition intrusions and allowations.

We therefore set that the draft Resource Management Plan be smorted to withdraw from subreal exploration, extraction or express to facilitate such purposes elsewhere, all federal lards within the viswhed of this historic town. We further sak that no such uses be permitted on federal lards within one sile of the rise of the State of the State

Please put the CPCA on your mailing list to receive a copy of the final 146-2.

By and any proposal to use nearby federal lands to facilitate mineral extraction activities.

Transform K

. peral ambiance now existing in the Bodie Bowl.

Bernard Shanks, President

Protecting California's Parkland Heritage

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 146 (California Parks and Conservation Association)

146-1) See the general responses for Bodie (p.5-5) and for minerals (p.5-13).

146-2) CPCA has been added to the RMP mailing list.

COMMENTS BLM/RMP

The Bodie Hills Management Area should be managed to improve wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, and protect scenic and historic values.

Alternative 4, the prefered alternative, is a good to place to start. Generally it offers some good protective measures for the Bodie Bowl that could be applied to other management areas that include portions of the Bodie hills. The following additions, subtractions, and questions are offered for considerations.

VRM I - Bodie Bowl. Good!

147-1

VPM I - Main travel routes.

VBM II - Remainder of the area and other areas which include portions of the Bodie Hills. The Bodie Hills offer tremendous opportunities to the Bodie Hills offer tremendous opportunities to the Bodie Hills offer tremendous opportunities to the Bodie Hills offer th

Proposal of the 7200 acre mineral withdrawal for the Bodie bowl should be included as part of the prefered alternative and would be in keeping with the following comment on page 120 of the draft bound of the proposal state of the draft bound of the draft bound

" A major issue that has been identified is potential development of an open pit mine near Bodie Bluff. Present day mining operations of this magnitude would be incompatible with the overall objectives for the area."

147-3 Propose BLM look into turning the Bodie Bowl property over to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

| Propose no Shooting and no camping within the Bodie bowl or the visible ridgelines, with the top of Geiger Grade being the limit to the west.

47-5 Scenic byways are a good idea. Road maintenance would have to improve if these designated routes become more popular.

7-6 Water quality shouls be maintained good enough for human use in all streams mentioned.

147-7 | Why should geothermal leasing be allowed in the Bodie bowl?

147-8

Propose the Bodie Hills Management area and those management ares which include portions of the Bodie Hills be considered for ACEC designation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. You and your staff are to complimented for a job well done.

- I head Sturgerist
- J. Brad Sturdivant Mono County Resident

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 147 (J. Brad Sturdivant)

- 147-1) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 147-2) See the general responses for Bodie (p.5-5) and for minerals (p.5-13).
- 147-3) Turning the Bodie Bowl over to the state would not extinguish the existing mineral rights which would still have to administered by BLM. It would be more difficult to manage the lands with the resulting split estate than it is with the existing cooperative agreement between BLM and the state.
- 147-4) Please see response 81-2.
- 147-5,6) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.
- 147-7) See the general response for geothermal (p.5-15).
- 147-8) See response 100-36.

Commercial II or a

January 15, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Area Manager:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Bishon Resource Anancement Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. September 1990, Bishop Resource Area - BIM. Overall the document is very thorough; however, I would like to point out inconsistency as well as topics I feel need more data to support the report's conclusions.

Inconsistencies

 The Lands and Minerals map keys do not delineate what light gray code represents. Does it represent "No Special Restrictions" as delineated on Land Use Restrictions maps?

148-1

2. Alternative 2 is considered "Custodial Management" which provides minimal management of BM Lands; whereas, Alternative 3 represents "Matural Resource Enhancement (TMM) designation for Alternative 2 in the South Tmyo Management (TMM) designation for Alternative 2 in the South Tmyo Management 2 in the Management of Custodia as VBM 2) more restrictive than Alternative 3 in the Management of Custodia as VBM 2) more restrictive than Alternative 3 in the Management of Custodia as VBM 2 in general, the VBM supe contradict

148-3

 The quail habitat map for the Bishop Resource Area has been omitted although protection for habitat areas are described in the narrative.

Misleading Conclusions: Chapter 4 - Impacts

148-4

i. The conclusions for Alternative 3 state that locatable mineral exploration and development would be slightly to moderately decreased over Alternative 1 and would slightly to decrease under Alternative 4. When utilizing the percentage numbers provided to calculate the effects of each alternative on mineral exploration and development activities, theses conclusions appear accurate; however, when already existing sining restrictions are considered winerals) Alternatives 1 and 4 vill significantly decrease mining activities rather than "significantly decrease mining activities rather than "significantly decrease."

2417 Bank Orive, No. 302 Bose, Idaho B3705 (208) 385-0373 FAX (208) 342-4385 400 Cosar d'Alene Mines Building 505 Front Avenue/P.O. Box I Cosar d'Alene, Idaho 93814 (208) 667-3511 FAX (208) 667-2213 January 15, 1991 Comments To Bishop Management Plan and DEIS Page 2

148-5

. Under the conclusions for Alternative 2, the Draft Environment Impact Statement states that the potential loss of \$4 million in locatable and \$8,000.00 in maleable minerals exists over a 10 - 20 year period and that there would be no adverse effect to the local of the there would be no adverse effect to the local of the there is a poport this conclusion.

148-6

The management plan needs to reduce restrictions on mining activities especially VMM restrictions; and the Environmental Impact Statement needs to address socioeconomic insues more thoroughly. In particular, the positive economic inspects generated from internal development of the property of the prop

Sincerely,

Anne Oberly

Environmental Coordinator

cc: R. Richins R. Mohr M. Goldstein

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 148 (Coeur d'Alene Mines)

- 148-1) Light grey on the "Land and Minerals" maps delineates BLM land. Where there is no other pattern overstriking the light grey, that area is proposed to be withdrawn from the locatable mineral entry.
- 148-2) The maps you identified are incorrect. The alternative narrative in the draft RMP reflects the actual prescription. A notation of this error is in the final RMP. Appendix 6.
- 148-3) Quali habitat is very difficult to delineate by a line on a map.
 Quali use areas contract and expand based on many
 environmental factors
- 148-4) These figures were developed prior to completion of the GIS analysis. They have been corrected in the final, and a basis given. The inconsistencies mentioned have also been corrected.
- 148-5) See response 54-4.
- 148-6) See general response for minerals, p.5-13,

Benefits to the local economy are a consideration for review of any mining project. However, cultural and historic values do not have equivalents in monetary measure. The draft RIMP does not seek to eliminate mining from the Bodie Bowl, but only to ensure adequate protection of other resources.



PATRICE DAVISON

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE P.O. Box 2151, Riverside, CA 92516 714-369-8960

January 17, 1991

Mike Perguson Area Manager BLM Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop. Ca. 93514

Re: Comments on Draft Resource Management Plan

Dear Mr. Perguson:

Enclosed please find comments on the draft RVP submitted on behalf of the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc. The Association is a non-profit statewide organization representing the interests of motorized recreationsists. The preferred recreation interests of motorized recreationsists. The preferred recreation distance, low speed, scenic touring opportunities are ideal emphasizing dispersal of use and assuring some degree of remoteras and solitude. In addition, wehicle-related activities, such as adequate provision of access routes, and nature study, depend on adequate provision of access routes.

The Bishop Resource Area offers, and is adjacent to, some of the finest SPM experiences in the State of California. The Plan's Vision to the future must factor that quality into the overall management of the area. Care must be taken to preserve those motorized opportunities, improving them where necessary. Loss of opportunity should be mitigated by replacement of opportunity.

Comments are keyed to pages in the draft. Requests for further information or questions are inserted in appropriate sections. Please note, however, the Association needs the requested information and answers before the Final is released.

Thank you very much for this chance to comment on the future management of the Bishop Resource Area. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Patrice Davison

cc: The Honorable John Seymour The Honorable Richard Lehman The Honorable William Thomas High Desert Multiple Use Coalition Ron Fite

Dr. David Hess Jon Aichele 3

January 17, 1991

CA4WDC, INC.: COMMENTS ON DRMP - BISHOP RESOURCE AREA

Page

149-2

149-8

149-9

4 It is not clear if "vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails" for all 4 alternatives covering the Bridgeport Valley MA. If that is the case, should be stated as such in the Summary, as was done for Coleville and Bodie Hills. Need consistency - application of conditions or terms should be easy to understand and follow a pattern, i.e. Summary for each MA should answer the question. "Do all alternatives for the MA treat vehicle." use the same, or do alternatives for the MA treat vehicle use differently?" Only then can the public accurately compare the alternatives for each area.

It is not clear if "vehicle use would (be) limited under all alternatives" (Granite Mtn. MA) means the same as "vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails." Also see previous comment.

Same comment as page 5, applied to the Benton MA summary.

Owens Valley MA summary does not explain how the 4

alternatives treat motorized use. South Inyo MA summary does not explain how the 4 alternatives

treat motorized use in the area outside of the proposed wilderness 149-6 ("Vehicle use would be...limited...")

Owens Lake MA summary does not explain how the 4 alternatives treat motorized use.

Why is the language concerning Bodie Bowl mineral withdrawal not also mentioned in the "Minerals" section? Isn't it possible that a reader interested in mining could skip over the "Recreation" section and miss the impact?

Isn't it conceivable that a cumulative impact of designated routes, additional ACECs, and seasonal and yearlong road closures is a net decrease of pre-plan opportunity? The changes proposed in the preferred plan translate, acreage and mileage-wise, into some decrease. That is an impact not disclosed in the Table and it deserves attention.

11 Justification is not provided for the correlation between ACEC designation and motorized recreation benefit. Past experience has shown almost the opposite. ACEC designation leads to reduction or prohibition of motorized routes, therefore ACECs are not an obvious compliment or benefit for motorized recreation.

149-10 | 12 Please explain "Artr-Putr"

19 Three MFPs are referenced: Benton-Coleville, Benton-Owens Valley, Bodie-Coleville. Aren't there just two (Benton-Owens Valley & Bodie-Coleville ??) 149-11

Please address Supplemental planning regs 43 CFR 1623.41A2e (copy enclosed) where it states,

"e. Designate all public lands in the planning area as either open, closed, or limited to ORV use. These designations must be delineated on a map..."

"... Each statement describe... the area's must approximate acreage...

The Association's concern is that draft plan documents, while alluding to certain management changes and proposed actions, do not delineate on a map the current open, closed, limited lands for motorized use and the proposed open, closed, and limited lands. This concern is specific to acreage, not individual routes. The result of such a delineation, on a map and with an acreage figure, would be that a comparison between current and future is easy to

In my opinion, that comparison cannot be easily or accurately done as the draft documents exist. I could assume certain things relating to management, but that is not a prudent thing to do. To use the Bodie Hills Management Area as an example, comparison of the "Land Use Restrictions" maps for Alternative 1 (Current) and Alternative 4 (Preferred) indicate some changes will occur (no geothermal leasing, seasonal protection area increased some, yearlong protection increased with the addition of the little dark circles [what is this for? sage grouse leks 1/3 mile? sensitive plants? aspen and riparian?] and sguiggly lines). The text leads to believe that the restriction on access will be different from current operations and may be significant. The maps do not show roads, therefore, the actual effect these new actions have on access is not entirely known. If the plan can provide a comparison of alternatives' acreage affected by these restrictions i.e. acreage closed to motorized use and limited, and further clarify which of the limited areas are covered by what restriction and for what species, I would understand what the total picture is, alternative by alternative. This comment relates to full public disclosure of the proposed action. This comment does not relate to the validity of the restrictive action.

23 Instead of identifying OHV, mining, and ROW development as potentially damaging to wildlife, it is better to state that all uses have the potential for damage to wildlife where not properly Otherwise, such reference is arbitrary and managed. discriminatory.

make.

24 The Association agrees with draft plan statement that wilderness study areas released from further wilderness review are available for multiple use resource management. The management direction for those non-Congressionally designated, i.e. released. WSAs should fold into the RMP without need for an additional environmental document justifying how those released areas are to be managed. Just because a wilderness decision was made for one area does not negate the RMP's applicability for the other areas. In other words, this RMP should be sufficient documentation allowing "impairment type activities" (fence building, road construction, organized events, etc.) to proceed once an area is released. The RMP is the overall planning tool - it allows "tiering off" for those activities or management actions that are consistent with it, subject to approved environmental analysis, Building a road in a released WSA where this RMP allows motorized use should not entail another EIS to determine the effects of the road on the "unroaded" character of an area. An EIS may be necessary to determine impacts on soils, wildlife, or other values, but not to re-visit the question of whether it may still be suitable for wilderness. If nothing else occurs as a result of this RMP effort, the integrity of the planning decisions from that respect must be upheld.

149-15 | 25 Where are the 135 acres of grass ?

149-16 similar and the form of the samples of "Actions that will interfere similar and/or enhance mule deer winter range..." Language should be included that allows altoation to offee those actions determined to be significant.

mecessity where management decisions are based on that conflict or impact.

The influence of the Tule RIK IMP on motorized recreation is not quantified, either in the draft plan text or on maps. Beference to it does not provide sufficient explanation. Please send so a copy for summaryl of this HMP. Perhaps a short summary. Appendix. The same could be maid for any other plan incorporated be reference (Fish Slough ACEC, Adobe Valley Prompkorn HMP, Benton-Owens Valley MFP amendment, Petroglyph CRM Plan, High Desert OHV Plan, Interasency Study. CRM with Bodie SP, Montgoorry Pass WIT

| 149-18 | 27 First comment for page 26 is applicable to sage grouse direction.

19 I appreciate and support the DRMS statement concerning the property of the proposed "resource condition objectives" for a given area (what does the total package look like), and are the proposed "resource condition objectives" suitable and attainable. In some instances, we do not have the expertise to answer those questions. Also, we do not know what the effect on the property of the property

Is it correct to assume that the DPCs are one type of resource condition objectives," and that there are other types of RCOs (i.e. VRM classes!? Why wasn't the entire resource area allocated to desired plant communities?

h49-20 For all proposed eligible additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, our concern in with the potential loss of motorized recretion of the control of the control of the control of the control of final designation.

The main route traversing from west to east just south of the Atastra headwater is a scenic, long distance route that offers a respite from the Geiger Grade Road. The views into the drainage are an attraction for motorized visitors. The road also serves other users - hunters, ranching access.

The Resource Area inventory also shows a "Jeep Trail" traveling west from the Pry Lakes junction, through section 27, 28, and crossing Mastra Creek and continuing into Section 29. Puture utilization of that crossing for sortized wehicles would probably only real, long distance, SPM link between the Dry Lakes country and the Paramount Mine or previously mentioned "Munter Camp" roads,

Based on the existence of routes and the possible need in the future for additional routes, the "Scenic" classification for Atastra is not appropriate.

The "Wild" designation for Rough Creek effectively enacts a 1/4 mile closure on each side of the creek. First of all, this designation does not appear as Closed acreage (672 acres) on any

8

149-22 cont.

map or in the text, yet it should he in the interest of accuracy. Second, this "wild" designation would prohibit the construction of any connecting east-west route. Such a restriction is uncalled for when other choices (scenic or recreational) exist that can fulfill the goal for protection and enhancement of values without a high cost to the general public.

31 Personally, it is much easier to assess the impacts of the proposed plan if each of the nine management areas is described in relation to the alternatives. My plan review focuses on what effect will alternative one have on recreation in Bodie Hills, vs. alternative four's effect. The resource area-wide alternatives do not provide complete information for each particular area, so applicability of planning rules and regulations is unclear on some

149-23 35 Does the draft Plan contain management direction common to all alternatives? Did I miss a section listing this common direction?

36 Alternative descriptions for Recreation should show open, 149-24 closed, and limited use acreage.

50 Seasonal closure acreage should be quantified in the text. I realize it is a subcategory of limited.

The preferred plan causes a gross loss of motorized recreation opportunity in that open (cross-country) use is eliminated, except for Poleta Canyon, some acreage is closed (Pish Slough ACEC and other examples), and a change is proposed from existing routes to designated. The cumulative effects of all these actions represent a loss. Plan should offer some mention of that loss and seek method to offset losses, such as compensation elsewhere of lost mileage.

This loss will appear in various ways on the Resource Area: concentration of use, increased conflicts, possible higher vandalism rate due to lack of human presence in some areas. How does the Plan deal with this?

Management direction to provide yearlong or seasonal protection for certain wildlife or plant species is not justified under the rationale section. The management direction for seasonal or yearlong use, as defined in the glossary, neglects the critical question of whether site specific data exists to back up claims of "adverse affects." Professional judgement, alone, does not suffice as a sound basis for decision making. "Disturbance" to a species is not defined. The burden of proof should be on the land manager to prove that a disturbance exists, that disturbance cannot be mitigated, and that seasonal or yearlong restrictions are really beneficial to the species.

in regards sage grouse, it would seem more logical to develop 149-27 HMPs first, and then formulate the land use restrictions that are necessary, instead of the way this draft plan suggests. Text information notes that sagebrush conditions are not ideal for sage



grouse; a change in that habitat condition may be the key for 149-27 successful populations, not a change in vehicular use. Road closures and camping prohibitions are not justified, there is no data to show that these current activities are causing any harm to the sage grouse population. The purpose for road closures where sage grouse are now utilizing the area is not made clear. Bodie Hills provides a good example - p. 121 notes that the largest population and highest number of strutting grounds for the resource area is found in the Bodie Hills. Yet parts of this management area saw cross country motorized use, and it is today laced with roads. Please review the enclosed "Sage Grouse Status and Recovery Plan..." Although the situation in the report is different from our resource area, comments in the report raise questions ahout habitat needs,

"The quantity and quality of big sagebrush is important even on the mating grounds. Characteristics of strutting grounds vary greatly. They may be bare openings in big sagebrush, gravel pits, plowed fields, wheat stubble, salt licks, remote air strips, temporary sheep camps, paved roads (emphasis added), bare exposed ridges ... Strutting grounds are not distinctive except that they are surrounded by hig sagebrush cover."

In addition to the expressed concern regarding inadequate information on acreage allocations (C,C,L), the total mileage that is affected by the yearlong and seasonal closures is not presented, but could be. Unless the various vehicle use plans have superiority over the RMP, this RMP direction will dictate where roads will remain open. This direction identifies in no uncertain terms that closures will occur. Our question is "where" and "how much mileage?"

Language restricting only motorized use is inappropriate and discriminatory. All use, motorized or nonmotorized, should be treated equally where a question of disturbance exists. Without a comparison of the potential effects caused by hiking use, v, equestrian use, v. mountain hike use, v. motorized use, it is premature, prejudicial, and unjustified to single out a particular activity.

60 We agree with the interpretation of the Dogtown site.

149-28

61 For Conway Summit (and all existing and proposed ACECs), need acreage figure. Define if "dispersed recreation" means orized or non-motorized, limited or closed acreage. Define yearlong protection." Not enough information contained. No rationale given why ACEC status is the only or best method to "protect the spectacular scenery and enhance other compatible uses.... " Only Alternatives 3 and 4 had this action. The case has not been made why ACEC status is necessary, or why that protection cannot be achieved by other means. In regards the effect on motorized use, the ACEC designation may result in a loss of existing opportunity, even though that use has not harmed the area's character up to this point in time. Page 145 notes that Virginia Creek is accessible by dirt road and "(I)t is estimated that 4,000 visitors per year utilize the Virginia Creek area." This existing access situation should not be jeogydized. The justification is not present and we disagree with the possal. 55 TRT comments in the CRM Plan should be seriously considered for approval. Any decisions identified in this RMP for the Bodie Mtn. allotement that are not part of the TRT CRM Plan should be subject to TRT discussion, modification, prioritization, and approval. This includes the Rodie Bowl ACCE activity plan.

Road closures or re-routes should only be entertained when site specific evidence is applicable to the situation. Please define "concentration areas." Remove discriminatory language aimed at motorized use. If restrictions are considered, their use should be across the board unless data shows otherwise.

We agree with the scenic and backcountry byway proposals, as long as the affected private property owners consent also.

166 We have no problem with the proposed construction of min.
Dike/foot/nore trails a long as existing sotorized opportunities
Dike/foot/nore trails as long as existing sotorized opportunities
157 portion of the railroad grade is now possible by weblices, and
158 is my understanding that portions north from May, 167 to Bodde
are still unable. I would like to suggest that this topic be
direction until more information; in available use plan, with no RMP
direction until more information; in available

We support the proposed loop concepts, and have already suggested some possibilities in these comments. This management direction, while welcome and appreciated, almost appears to conflict with the statement that "fand use authorizations will be allowed on the west side..." Doesn't that imply that land use authorizations will not be allowed on the east side;

We support interpretation for the Mono Diggins site.

One site for camping where fencing may be helpful is the junction north of Halfway Camp, where the existing road parallel the creek will be rehabilitated. The camp site is found in the SE corner of Section 31.

The HMPs should be done before other management direction is finalized, and should include involvement of the CRMP members.

The LCTT introduction should be done as an experimental effort, to avoid undue hardship or deprivation to the public and private property owners.

We agree that vehicle use should be handled under the auspices of the CRMP process provided that the CRMP process seeks data of sufficient quality faite specific) to justify management decisions to be formulated before seems whatcover for closure decisions to be formulated before the seems whatcover for

70 We agree with the proposed interpretation on the Mono Basin/Bodie travel corridors.

73 Does "recreation opportunties" mean motorized and non-M4-35 motorized?

What will be the management of the parcels identified for acquisition? Will these lands be closed to motorized use? What is the justification for the proposed acquisition and/or closure?

176 The discussion on the South Tableland area needs (1940-66 clarification. Golf management is to enhance SPMH), is that done at the expense of the existing motorized use? I stee area itself closed to motorized use, but open or limited roads are authorized? hose the direction for 'no new roads' mean that environmentally would not be allowed? If the idea is to freeze miseage, than a qualifier should be in place to allow new replacements for old. If the idea is to close the area, then it should be clearly stated as such. The alternatives only present two choices: manage for SPM (alt. 3 & 4), or don't manage for SPM (alt. 1 & 2). In any case, the state of the st

PM-S7 camping from wildlife habitat protection... will impact the Coleville, Bridgeport, Bodie Hills, Granite Mountain, Benton, Long Valley, Owens Valley, and Owens Lake management areas. Motorized recreation use will also be prohibited in portions of the South Inyo MA. While it is encouraging to see the Plan recompite losses, it is also the Plan's Exponsibility to address those losses. From the Plan's Exponsibility to address the Plan's Exponsibility for forture planning.

117 "Seasonal closures are designated for ..." - the two Areas MM4-35 mentioned do not complete the list. The sentence should be amended to include the other areas. The current open, closed, limited acreage should be presented.

144-39 118 It would be most helpful if the plan could show all recreation use figures on one page.

120 If the Bodie Rowl SRMA acreage is the same as the proposed H44-40 ACEC, it should be noted. If %t is not, please provide that figure.

| 149 Need to describe current motorized use acreage (0,C,L).

Statements about route proliferation should be qualified i.e. as to amount, location, and reason why it is occurring. Otherwise the reader lacks adequate information to understand and analyze the situation.

The statement regarding deterioration of habitat is also a generalization, and may be incorrect to a degree. It appears to contradict the statement "Wehicle routes bisecting streams occur at several sites; however, there is currently little adverse impact to channels and riparian vegetation."

149-12 183 Each recreation discipline should be covered as thoroughly as

187 Visitor use and satisfaction will be increased by a logical and will be increased by a logical and planned access network. Leaving numerous dead ends in a system, especially in the Bodie Hills, without providing for future connectors is bad planning and detrimental to the overall goal. The restrictions proposed in the plan severely affect the public not 50 logical with the provided by the school does not 50 logical with the conclusion does not 50 logical with the conclusion does not 50 logical with the school with th

101 Please delete the language relating to recreational impacts to depart lives tock/Grazing. That satement does not represent our organization's frame of mind, nor does it apply to any other organization, from a motorized standpoint, with which we associate. Unless the plan has some basis on which to make such a presumption, this should be striked.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 149 (Patrice Davison, Calif. Assoc. of 4WD Clubs)

149-1,2) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered for the final RMP. The concept of 'opportunities lost should be offset by opportunities gained' is not supportable since many routes were constructed or pioneered for non-recreation related reasons such as mining, ranching, timber, etc. Additionally, no environmental analysis was prepared for most routes. The purpose of the ongoing off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity plan (High Desert) is to allow OHV access to traditional areas within environmentally acceptable limits. In this process, one objective would be to identify and provide OHV opportunities to meet demand. This would not necessarily maintain comparable route mileages. New connector routes proposed as part of the plan and in concurrence with the citizens technical review team will be addressed in site specific environmental assessments.

149-3-7) The vehicle use designations were inadvertently omitted in the management area summaries. The areawide alternatives in Chapter 2 (pages 39-51) and Table 2-1 (pages 36-37) of the draft RMP describe the vehicle use designations. They are basically similar except that Alternatives 1 & 2 would have no seasonal restrictions. These restrictions were erroneously identified in the draft RMP but have been deleted in the final RMP.

149-8,9) The recreation portion of Table S-1 is a cumulative impact summary which identifies broad and general impacts in a regional context. Specific impacts to OHVs are addressed in Chapter 4 of the RMP.

149-10) "Artr - Putr" is a shorthand notation for the scientific names of big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush, respectively.

149-11) Yes. Benton-Coleville was a typo.

149-12) The maps included in the draft RMP entitled Special Management Areas identified the Poleta Canyon OHV Area. The draft RMP narrative identified this OHV area and that all remaining public lands would be limited to designated roads and trails. We have clarified the final RMP map to identify the Poleta Canyon OHV open area near Bishop and to also indicate that vehicle use on all other public lands would be limited, with a closure provision for the proposed Southern Inyo wilderness. The Alternative 4 map has been included in Chapter 2 (Figures 2-1 and 2-2) of the final RMP and is retitled *Off-Highway Vehicle Designation Map*.

Vehicle use designations and acreages are identified in the areawide alternatives (pages 39-51) of the draft RMP.

The 1/8 mile vehicle use restriction around sage grouse leks has been deleted from the RMP and will be addressed in upcoming activity plans. The 1/8 mile seasonal camping restriction around leks and mule deer concentration areas (Bodie Hills) have the most immediate effect on dispersed camping. The dark circles you refer to represent yearlong protection areas for sage grouse leks. Other specific restrictions that may affect OHV use would be addressed in activity plans. Please see general response to comments on OHV management.

- 149-13) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 149-14) Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP has been expanded to clarify the Bureau's wilderness review process.
- 149-15) The reference to the 135 acres of grass under #3 in Valid Existing Management, p.25 has been removed from the document.
- 149-16) Examples of such actions include construction of large fire breaks, new roads, pipelines, herbicide treatments to eradicate exotic plants and potentially detrimental to key forage plants, etc.

- 149-17) The Owens Valley Tule Elik HMP has had no effect on motorized recreation. As stated in Chapter 1 of the final plan under Valid Existing Management, CRMPs, HMPs, etc. will remain in effect. The plans are available in this office for public review and are included, by reference, in this RMP.
- 149-18) Please see response 149-16.
- 149-19) The resource condition objectives (or goals) are described in many of the area-wide or management area Alternative 4 decisions. Plan decisions are considered attainable.

The DPCs and VRM classes are examples of resource condition objectives. Concerning your question as to why the entire resource area was not allocated to DPC goals, please refer to the DPC general statement.

- 149-20) Potential or existing resource conflicts would be addressed in the upcoming wild and scenic river studies, outside the scope of this RMP. In the interim, vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values which contributed to the eligibility determination.
- 149-21) Route connectors and primitive trail proposals have been deleted from the final RMP. Any new routes or trails would be reconsidered in future activity plans and the wild and scenic river studies.

The scenic classification for the eligible portions of Atastra Creek was based on criteria from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Appendix 3 defines scenic river areas as *...accessible in places by roads....*. Any need for additional routes in the river corridor would be addressed in future activity plans and wild and scenic river studies.

Prior to the upcoming wild and scenic river studies, it is more appropriate to designate vehicle use on eligible portions of Rough Creek as limited since a closed designation would prematurely bias Rough Creek as suitable for wild and scenic river status. If the studies propose Rough Creek as suitable for wild and scenic status under the wild classification, then a closed designation would be implemented and compatible with the objectives for the area. While the area is under study, a limited designation is more practical. If the studies propose a nonsuitable recommendation, then the limited designation provides more flexibility for varied uses in the area. In any case, no known vehicle routes exist in the river corridor so impacts from vehicle use are nonexistent. Also note that during the wild and scenic studies, river classifications may change from their original status when they are proposed as suitable for wild and scenic river status.

- 149-22) A brief explanation is provided in Chapter 4, Introduction, of the draft RMP. It was believed that since the RMP provides a general management direction, which was similar in most management areas, then impacts could be general as well.
- 149-23) Management area direction common to all alternatives can be found in the Area Manager's Guidelines (page 26 of the draft) and the Standard Operating Procedures (Appendix 6, p.269 of the draft).
- 149-24) Please see response 149-12, paragraph 2. The RMP vehicle use designations provide general direction. Impacts have been generally described in Chapter 4 of the RMP. Ongoing and upcoming vehicle use designation activity plans would identify specific impacts to access and camping as well as evaluate alternative access opportunities near the area. In regard to the sage grouse issue in Long Valley, the area has been reviewed through the Interagency OHV Project and is in conformance with RMP objectives. The Inyo National Forest has the lead on this project. It is expected that a draft document will be available for public review sometime this year. The Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management process will review vehicle use designations in the activity plan in 1991-1992.

- 149-25) Please see responses 149-24 and 149-1,2.
- 149-26) Your comment has been considered in the final plan.
- 149-27) Please see responses 149-12 and 149-24. The RMP direction identifies resource standards based on determinations of highest and best use. Subsequently, certain resources such as wildlife, riparian, etc. would receive management emphasis. Site-specific activity plans such as the Interagency OHV project have included other uses in their restrictions. We will use this approach in other activity plans and consider restricting other uses based on potential impacts to tarqeted resources.

Your comment concerning sage grouse populations and the seasonal restrictions to vehicles in some areas has been considered in the final plan.

Concerning your comment in the 3rd paragraph, please refer to response 149-24.

Your comment in the 4th paragraph fails to account for the typical flight response of sage grouse due to vehicles being driven through lek sites. The seasonal restriction of vehicle within 1/3 mile of leks has been removed from the final RMP; the issue will be addressed in vehicle use plans to be developed for the Long Valley and Bodie Hills MAs.

149-28) ACEC acreages have been identified in the final RMP in Chapter 2. The full range of compatible dispersed recreation opportunities would be specifically identified in the ACEC activity plan. Vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and trails in conformance with ACEC objectives, VRM, yearlong protection, etc. The scenic ACEC designation was appropriate because of the area's high scenic, riparian and recreation qualities. The designation also establishes a management emphasis for an area that contains significant resource values. Chapter 2 of the final RMP defines yearlong protection more clearly.

149-29) Evidence is available supporting our RMP decisions. Vehicle use and associated impacts are a major issue in the Bodie Hills. The frequency and ease of access by vehicles are the most significant factor contributing to impacts in areas where mule deer and sage grouse are concentrated. Please note that sensitive plants are included in the final RMP. The prescription in Chapter 2 has been darfilled to describe habitat locations. See response 149-27 regarding management of other land uses.

The Bodie Mountain CRMP and the RMP decisions will be reviewed for compatibility. The TRT's data and resolutions will be used to resolve conflicts between the two documents.

The Bodie Bowl ACEC activity plan will be developed using a CRMP approach.

- 149-30) Please see response 79-7. The intent of the rationale was to acknowledge management emphasis for land use authorizations where future demand is expected to occur, i.e. near Bridgeport. Although demand is low, land use authorizations would be allowed on the east side if they conform to the RMP.
- 149-31) Fencing of campsites has been deleted from the final RMP. It would be reconsidered at the activity plan level.
- 149-32) Habitat management plans will be available to the Bodie Hills CRMP members for input and comments
- 149-33) Lahontan cutthroat trout would be introduced according to Bureau manual guidelines for experimental populations.
- 149-34) Please see response 149-29. Note that we will coordinate the vehicle use designation plan through the Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management process.
- 149-35) Yes. Any management must, however, conform to the overriding RMP prescriptions and be identified in activity plans for the area.

The management would be to enhance habitats of sage grouse, the diving beetle, and the Owens dace. The lands would follow

the same prescriptions as the RMP, i.e. designated roads and trails with some seasonal closures. The acquisitions would contribute to improved management of sensitive wildlife and other species.

- 149-36) Existing motorized use based upon the results of the High Desert OHV Study would continue. Vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails that were identified in the study. At the present time, our intent is to implement the route designations approved by the technical review team and our office. The objective is to enhance the semi-primitive nature of the area by various management tools. One tool is to prohibit new roads in the area except for those acknowledged in the High Desert OHV Study. Other tools include VRM, a saleable mineral material prohibition, etc. Chapter 3 of the draft RMP (pages 155-157) provides some information about the semi-primitive opportunities in the area. Some additional information has been provided in the final RMP (Chapter 2-Benton Management Area Rationale) to clarify the situation.
- 149-37) Thank you for your comment. It has been noted and considered for the final RMP.
- 149-38) This statement has been deleted in the final RMP. Under Alternative 1 there would be no known seasonal restrictions to casual vehicle use.
- 149-39) The visitor use data portray only a partial picture of use in the resource area. Use was projected and addressed in the more popular use areas on public lands. The information was portrayed in an equivalent manner in Chapter 3 of the draft RMP.
- 149-40) The acreage is the same.
- 149-41) Please see response 149-12.

We will evaluate resource conditions in the upcoming Bodie Hills OHV route designations which will be coordinated with the Bodie Hills Coordinated Resource Management process. At this time, appropriate mitigations will be considered.

- 149-42) At this time, recreation data are incomplete for the resource area.
- 149-43) Your comments would be considered in the upcoming activity plan process. Restrictions identified in the RMP seek to maintain or enhance resource standards that require management emphasis.
- 149-44) The impact statements to which you refer have been modified in the final RMP.

Mr. 7 erguson, Hy rane is Lyon Bears & I him in Klamoth, & dam switting you covering Carten June BUH lank I agand some time, 3-6 weeks, in this area each year. Whit toppeds to its environment concerns one greats. 157-1 The mint obvious problem is graying. Over graying is a problem theorement the most, thereing it will be deast. Some also should be off limits to graying of others severally contrabel. Of word vehicles are at of contral. There people have no respect to the landerage. No we can argue that they do. Dever creatisting must be put on those people Evident ab 104 of the inder accor , 27,000 and our of 288,000, are present to be poor protected. There a jobs, cript? and the Ben refuse to reconciles there inaliques incommentation in the current RMP. There is a new era be gening & 2 suggest the Bin get wit. On do you wont to he still known as B. of hiestors & being? Druppart alleratore 3, w/ several charge along w/ three or above: beginse private lords in the river & creek corridois to increase the miles the streams are protected; withher Bu lands adjace to Brodie St. Px. from mirend develop please keep me informed on developments on this cience. Thoms you

Lynn Bernez By 32 KCAMARK & 75598

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 151 (Lynn Berner)

151-1) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

It is not the policy of the BLM to allow livestock grazing to degrade the public resources. It is BLM policy to manage grazing allotments according to the forage available and the other resources within the allotment. Twenty percent of the bublic land in the Bishop RA will be ungrazzed as per the RMP.

- 151-2) Please general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 151-3) Please see Chapter 1, Wildemess Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wildemess review process.
- 151-4) Thank you for your comment. The RMP has been revised to allow for potential acquisition of wetlands or sensitive species habitat not specifically identified in the plan.



FRIENDS

OF THE

RIVER

January 17, 1991

Michael Ferguson Bishop Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishon, CA 93514

Re: Comments in response to the draft Bishop RMP/EIS

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Friends of the River urges you to adopt Alternative 3 (Natural Resource Enhancement) as the preferred management plan for the Bishop Area. This alternative best preserves the ecological integrity of vital wildlife habitat and recreation lands.

More detailed comments follow:

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

The Bureau is to be commended for its innovative assessment of area streams for National Wild and Scenic River status. We greatly appreciate the effort the agency put into the assessment process and we are looking forward to continue working with you as the agency initiates suitability

152-1

Bielbillty. We urge you to retain the eligibility decision for Fish Slough. Although not meeting the traditional idea of a "Will and Scene River", Fish Slough, nevertheless possesses important outstandingly remarkable values and its protection meets the intent of Congress to Include a wide range of rivers, estuaries, creeks, runs, kills, rills and small lakes (Sec. 16, National Wild and Scene Rivers Act). Although portions of the Fish Slough chamin may have been modified in the past, the modifications are not been declared to be considered to the control of the control

Friends of the River strongly supports the eligibility findings for Virginia Creek, Green Creek, Dog Creek, Rough Creek, Atastra Creek, Hot Creek, Rock Creek, George Creek and Independence Creek.

<u>Suitability Studies</u>: There is no mention in the RMP of when the Bureau intends to study eligible streams to determine their suitability and make recommendations to Congress. Although we realize that such studies depend upon funding, the Bureau should make a commitment to complete the suitability studies within a reasonable time period.

^{509 12}th Street, Suite 207. Santameran, CA 95814-2931 (916) 442-3155 . S.F. Office: Fort Mason Center, Building C., Sun Francisco, CA 94823-1324 (415) 771-0400

152-1 cont.

Joint Studies: The Bureau should invite and encourage cooperative suitability studies with other management agencies including the Totyseb National Forest (Virginia Creek, Dog Creek, Green Creek), Inyo National forest (Hot Creek, Rock Creek, George Creek, Independence Creek) and the Los Angeles Pepartment of Water and Power (Fish Sloush).

Classification: The proposed recreational classification of many eligible streams is unduly strict. Although many of the stream segments are within 1/4 mile of a road, the actual stream may be in a deep canyon while the road any follow the canyon rim — no real road access is available. Many segments are sufficiently removed from roads not to require recreational classification. Firefact of the River recommends consideration of the following the consideration. Firefact of the River recommends consideration of the following the following consideration of the removement of the consideration of the following the following the consideration of the following the following consideration of the following the following consideration of the following the followi

STREAM

BLM CLASSIFICATION F.O.R. CLASSIFICATION

Virginia Creek	Recreational	Recreational	
Green Creek	Recreational	Scenic	
Dog Creek	Recreational	Scenic/Wild	
Rough Creek	Wild	?	
Atastra Creek	Scenic/Recreational	7	
Fish Slough	Recreational	Scenic	
Hot Creek	Recreational	Scenic	
Rock Creek	Recreational	Scenic	
George Creek	Recreational	Wild	
Independence Creek	Recreational	Scenic	

Notes -

F.O.R.'s recommendations are based upon a map review as well as site specific visits. They should be double checked by field visits.

Green Creek - According to BLM's Bridgeport map, roads are well away from

Green Creek - According to BLM's Bridgeport map, roads are well away from the creek.

Dog Creek - According to BLM's Bridgeport map, most of Dog Creek is not accessed by a road, except for a half mile segment adjacent to an unimproved road.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Fish Slough - Except for a few access points , Fish Slough is well removed from the road. \\ \end{tabular}$

Hot Creek - Hot Creek is located in a deep canyon while the closest road - apparently "nearby" on a one dimensional map - is well removed from the creek on the canyon rim.

152-1 cont.

Rock Creek - Rock Creek is located in a deep canyon while the closest road - apparently "nearby" on a one dimensional map - is well removed from the creek on the canyon rim.

George Creek - According to BLM's Mt. Whitney map, George Creek is accessed at only one point by a road, but most of the creek is roadless.

Independence Creek - The creek appears to be well removed from the adjacent roadway.

Private Lands: Many of the stream segments found eligible are relatively short because of scattered public land ownership. One of the reasons why F.O.R. supports Alternative 3 is the emphasis on the acquisition of additional public lands to protect fish and widdlife habitat. Whatever alternative is eventually adopted, it should emphasise the acquisition of eligible stream corridors in order to assure the protection of outstandinely remarkable

Interim Manasement Guidelines: In terms of providing general guidance, the proposed Interim Management Guidelines are a good start. However, the guidelines should emphasize the protection of identified outstandingly remarkable (OR) values. This overriding consideration must be addressed in any site specific analysis conducted for proposed management activities.

For example, one of Virginia Creek's OR values is "scenic's. Because the creek only eligible for Recreational classification, the visual resource standard is partial retention—a standard we believe is instificient to protect OR scenic specific values of the protect of scenic standard is provided by the protect of the pr

The general "cookbook" type guidance provided in the Interim Guidelines fail to provide specific protection for OR values. Specific analysis is required of every project to insure that activities will not adversely impact OR values. Site specific measures should be adopted to protect all identified OR values.

MINING

values.

152-2

We support the \$0,000 acrs mining withdrawal proposed under alternative 3. In addition, mining of existing claims in the Bodie area should be restricted to assure the protection of the historical values of the Bodie State Historical Park.

PANCE

152-3

The RMP is somewhat contradictory on this issue. On page 24, the RMP adopts existing grazing plans by reference and states that vital issues in regard to stocking levels, etc are not addressed in the plan. And yet, the RMP

152-3 cont. does decide which allotments to adjust, delete or maintain for each management area. Regardless, the RMP is legally deficient without an assessment of the condition of the range throughout the resource area.

OFF ROAD VEHICLES

152-4

There is no apparent analysis of the impacts of off road vehicles on sensitive resources. Although GPV users are asked to remain on designated trails and roads, essentially more than 9% of the Resource Area is open to vehicular travel. The RMP should specifically assess a reas such as Wild and Scenic River corridors, ACCS's, sensitive wildlife habitat and other classifications which should be restricted from GRV use.

WILDERNESS

152-5

We strongly support permanent protection of the wilderness character of all roadless areas. At the minimum, the 286,618 acres of wilderness study areas in the Bishop area should be allocated to semi-primitive non-motorized use until Congress makes a final decision on the Bureau's wilderness recommendations.

ACECS

152-6

We strongly support the retention/establishment of the Travertine, Fish Slough, Slinkard, Conway, Copper Mountain, Bodie Mountain, Long Valley, Alabama Hills, Crater Mountain and Keynot Peak Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as provided in alternative 3.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bishop draft RMP/EIS. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely.

Steven L. Evans Conservation Director

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 152 (Friends of the River)

152-1) Thank you for your comments. Please note that Mill Creek has been added as an eligible river segment in the final RMP. It has been classified as wild.

Bureau portions of Fish Slough remain eligible in the final RMP.

Chapter 1, p.29 of the draft RMP indicates when the suitability studies will be completed. This has been modified in the final RMP to read that studies will be initiated within two years after the RMP is approved. Appendix 2, p.245 of the draft RMP identifies the study schedule as well.

It is our intent to solicit interest and invite adjoining agencies and private owners to cooperate in joint suitability studies. Some agencies have already expressed their opinions about river segments on their lands. See letters 84, 90, and 164.

We consider the classifications to be potential designations based on our knowledge of the field situation. We have reassessed the creeks and have modified the final RMP so that both Hot Creek and Rock Creek are reclassified as scenic. During the upcoming studies, we will reevaluate the classifications based on more complete field information and make changes accordingly.

Acquisitions of private lands would be considered in the upcoming studies.

We agree with your comments. Appendix 3 of the draft RMP, pp.255-256, notes that the free flowing and outstandingly remarkable values require protection under interim management. We have, however, added a statement to Chapter 1 in the Wild and Scenic Rivers portion of the final RMP to clarify the goals of interim management. Also, any new proposals made in eligible river corridors would undergo a site specific environmental assessment to identify impacts to the river values and mitications.

- 152-2) By "restricting mining," we assume you mean mineral withdrawal. Please see general responses for minerals and for Bodie.
- 152-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11). It is the intent of the RMP to fine-tune the grazing EIS decisions in order to achieve the proper management.
- 152-4) Please see general response to comments on OHV management. Note that vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails. Vehicle use would be allowed in corridor areas in conformance with the interim management guidelines of Aopendix 3, draft RMP.
- 152-5) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 152-6) We appreciate your interest in the Alternative 3 proposed ACECs. Your comment has been considered in the final plan.

Resources Building

95814 (916) 445-5656 TDD (916) 324-0804

California Conservation Corps Department of Boeling and Waterways Department of Conservation Department of Fish and Gerne Department of Forestry Department of Parks and Recreation Department of Water Resources GOVERNOR OF



THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA Air Resources Board California Coastel Commiste California Tehoe Conservano California Waste Managemer Board

Cotorado River Board
Energy Resources Corse-voltAnd Development Common
San Francisco Bay Conservat
and Development Commiss
Sarte Coastal Conservancy
Sele Lends Division
Saida Reclamation Board
Sate Water Resources Confer-

Regional Water Quality Control Borrds

January 18, 1991

U. S. Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area

ATTN: Area Manager 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Area Manager:

for your consideration.

The State submitted a letter on January 17, 1991 on the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Inpo and Mono Counties. This letter included comments from the Department of Conservation. Since that time the Department of Fish and Game has submitted the attached comments

Thank you for your additional attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Harold F. Waraas Assistant Secretary Administration/Finance

Attachment

cc: Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (SCH 88110304) State o. California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

The Honorable Douglas P. Wheeler Secretary for Resources 1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Dote , January 17, 1991

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: SCH 88110304 - Bureau of Land Management Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bishop Resource Area

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has reviewed the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEÍS) for the Bishop Resource Area. The RMP is intended to identify management direction on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands for the next 10-20 years. Located in the Eastern Sierra Nevada region of California, the Resource Area (RA) includes 750,000 acres of BLM land and 9,000 acres of minerals under private land in Inyo and Mono counties. Although the RMP focuses most strongly on four issues (recreation, wildlife, minerals, land ownership and authorizations), additional management concerns addressed include cultural resources, fuelwood harvesting, livestock grazing, and fire suppression. Alternative management scenarios analyzed include: 1) Continuation of Present Management, 2) Custodial Management, 3) Natural Resource Enhancement, and 4) The Preferred alternative. Alternative 2 is commodity and development-oriented, while alternatives 1, 3, and 4 provide varying levels of protection and enhancement for many resources

The DFG has concerns with the probable impacts of the RMP, as proposed, on biological resources such as migratory mule deer. pronghorn, tule elk, sage grouse, sensitive plants, recreationally used trout populations, sensitive trout populations, invertebrate populations, threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife, migratory and resident bird species, and the habitats supporting these resources. The RA contains significant communities of aquatic, wetland, riparian, sand dune, desert spring, old growth red fir, bristlecone pine, and bitterbrush/ sagebrush resources.

Based on the conclusions stated in Chapter 4, Impact Analysis, alternatives 1 (Present Management) and 2 - (Custodial Management) would result in unacceptably negative impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Such a level of impacts does not appear to comply with General Policy No. 4, stated on page 25 of the RMP [Section 102(a)(8), Federal Land and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)), nor with the letter and intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The specific problems are as follows:

The Honorable Douglas P. Wheeler -2-

January 17, 1991

1. Effects on Threatened and Endangered Species. As stated on page 196 of the DEIS, the cumulative effects of either alternative 1 or 2 would be moderate to high negative impacts to the majority of sensitive plant and animal species within the RA. Therefore, selection of either of these alternatives would be inconsistent with FLPMA and ESA.

154-1

2. Effects on Riparian and Fisheries Habitat. Page 194 states that selection of either alternative 1 or 2 would result in slight to moderate negative impacts to existing riparian and fisheries habitats. The California State Legislature and the State Fish and Game Commission have addressed concern for such losses with passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 and adoption of the Fish and Game Commission's Wetlands Resources Policy. That Policy opposes all wetland development projects that result in net loss of either wetland acreage or wetland habitat resource value. Also, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) classifies riparian habitat as a type of wetland habitat, placing it within the protective umbrella of that classification.

3. Effects on Tule Elk. Page 192 states that alternatives 1 and 2 would cause slight to moderate negative impacts to tule elk habitat conditions. This conflicts with the Owens Valley Tule Elk Habitat Management Plan signed by BLM in 1986.

4. Effects on Mule Deer. Page 190 states that alternatives 1 and 2 will result in moderate to high negative impacts to six deer herds. Selection of either alternative would be inconsistent with BLM's policy stated on page 26 of the RMP as: "BLM will continue to cooperate with the DFG with regard to Deer Herd Management Plans." These plans for all six herds within the RA, as signed by the BLM, call for maintenance or slight improvements in deer numbers and deer habitat for each herd.

5 Effects on Sage Grouse and Quail. Page 188 states that alternatives 1 and 2 will add significantly to the loss or degradation of habitat for sage grouse and quail. Habitat for other unland species will be similarly affected.

6. Effects on Pronghorn. Page 193 states that selection of alternatives 1 or 2 will have slight to moderate negative

effects on pronghorn habitat conditions. 7. Neither Alternative 1 nor 2 incorporate management for Desired Plant Communities (DPC), a concept the DFG strongly endorses.

8. Alternatives 1, 2 and 4 include provisions for an east-west transmission corridor through the Owens Valley. All proposed alignments for the transmission corridor would have significant negative effects on a variety of fish and wildlife

154-2

resources.

154-2 cont. 154-3 For the above reasons, we would object to adoption of alternatives 1 and 2, and call for their rejection. They do not afford sufficient protection for fish and wildlife resources.

The DFG does not concur with revocation of watershed withdrawals as proposed in alternatives 2, 3, and 4. We believe such revocation would not be beneficial to the natural resources within the RA. Also, the authority to adequately manage the lands within the RA could be jeopardized if the withdrawals are revoked. Instead, due to the various unique and recreationally valuable natural resources present in the RA, the DFG recommends that the RA receive special designation as a Natural Conservation Area (NCA). The RA not only contains its own unique areas, such as geothermally active sites, significant deer winter ranges, pronghorn, trout streams, wilderness study areas, and significant aesthetic, scenic, and recreational values, but it also is adjacent to a broad spectrum of quality lands with natural resource and recreational values of equal or greater distinction, including existing wilderness study areas.

The overall area managed by several Federal, State, and local agencies receives tremendous recreational use. For example, the Inyo National Forest alone supported an annual visitation in 1986 exceeding that of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Glacier National parks combined. It appears appropriate that the RA receive NCA designation to preserve the richness and diversity of the entire Invo-Mono area.

Additionally, designation of the RA as an NCA should incorporate at least the following conditions:

- 1. The BLM should retain full authority over management of the NCA as currently exists in the RA, specifically retention of authority to provide terms and conditions in a "4e Report" to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Federal Power Act.
- The DFG should participate in selection and evaluation of lands proposed by the BLM for disposal, acquisition, or exchange, and participate in development of the Environmental Assessment for any such disposal.
- 3. Prior to disposal of any lands, an assessment of the cumulative impacts attributed to such disposal should be completed, particularly with respect to impacts associated with fish and wildlife habitats and water resources.

The DFG recommends that Alternative 3, with modifications provided in our Specific Comments, attached, be selected as the preferred alternative.

The conclusions in Chapter 4 state that Alternative 3 provides the most protection for fish and wildlife resources and, as stated on page 35, this is the only alternative which would maintain or improve the condition of the natural environment. Wildlife habitat would be improved, scenic quality enhanced, and vegetation and other natural resources protected. In the event Alternative 3 is demonstrated to be infeasible of implementation, we would concur with Alternative 4 only if the following major additions and modifications, resolving the issues and concerns we have in a balanced manner, are fully incorporated in the RMP:

- 1. Elimination of consideration of an east-west transmission line 154-4 corridor through the Owens Valley.
- DPC goals for riparian communities identified in Alternative 4 154-5 should meet or exceed those identified in Alternative 3.
- Fire suppression techniques should be modified to reduce 154-6 adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitats. The RNP is deficient in identification of monitoring
 - 4. Incorporation of the Specific Comments attached to this letter.

responsibilities, in Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), and in 154-7

Area Manager's Guidelines (AMG). Without correction of these deficiencies the RMP will probably not function in the manner intended. In that regard, we believe the BLM planning should involve a dynamic process not ending with publication of the RMP. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities should provide continuing information as to how the programs are meeting the RMP's objectives. Through this process corrections and adjustments can be made in management activities, the degree of implementation adjusted, and, most importantly, the need for change recognized.

Monitoring should be established to collect information from selected sources to determine RMP implementation and to measure the effects of BLM activities. This information will indicate whether future program activities are consistent with the objectives and the costs as projected in the RMP and whether they adhere to the SOPs and respond to the public's and management's expressed concerns.

Therefore, we strongly urge the BLM to devote a full chapter of the RMP to a monitoring and evaluation process similar to the one contained in Chapter 5 (pages 242-257) of the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1988.

We recognize there are many needs for resource monitoring, but we also realize there are potential limitations on BLM staff time.

The Honorable Douglas P. Wheeler -5-

January 17, 1991

154-8

We believe achieving needed monitoring will require use of non-BLM personnel. Relative to grazing needs, we propose that the cost of effective monitoring of forage utilization on all allotments be funded by the appropriate permittee(s) as a use fee so that the public can recognize the degree of this consumptive use of its management Plan (MPF).

The DTG believes adoption of adequate SOFs is necessary to suitably implement the decisions of the RMP. In our experience, the SOFs are the basis for sound management that the SOFS is a because the sound of the SOFS is a sound of the SOFS is a sound of the Due to our strong interest in this aspect, we have included an extensive list of potential SOFS we believe would provide the RMF attempth to appropriately protect fish and wildlife resources and

In addition, to the above major items, the attached comments also detail our specific concerns and suggested modifications for alternatives 3 and 4.

We appreciate this opportunity to review the Draft RMP and DEIS. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Pred Worthley, Regional Manager, Region 5, Department of Pish and Game, 330 Golden Shore, Suite 50, Long Beach, California 90802, telephone (213) 590-5937.

Pete Bontadelli Director

Attachment

cc: Supervisor, Inyo National Forest, Bishop Mr. R. Bransfield, USFWS, Ventura Supervisor, Toiyabe National Forest, Sparks

ATTACHMENT

Specific Comments

- 1. Page 19, Purpose and Need for this RMP. We suggest that a brief description, or listing, of the "sixteen major proposals not in conformance with the MFPs" as identified by the Area Manager be included in the RMP.
- Page 25. The RRP should also set goals and objectives for management of the effects of other decisions on: wildlife; threatened, endangered, or rare plants; fish species of special concern or management needs; and their habitats.
 - Page 26. We generally support the proposed Area Manager's Guidelines (AnGs), but we believe they should be strengthened and expanded. The following changes and additions are proposed to provide more assurance of achieving the needed protection to critical wildlife resources (changes are underlined):
- a. \$2. Vegetative goals for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and riparian conditions shall be given preference in relationship to livestock forage needs. Traditional, or permittee-desired practices, may be maintained provided vegetative goals can be met.
 - b. #3. Actions that interfere significantly with efforts to maintain and/or enhance mule deer winter range throughout the area will not be allowed.
 - c. §8. Actions that interfere significantly with efforts to maintain and/or enhance sage grouse habitat will not be allowed.
- d. We believe that the Agency's committent to implementation of 50% is important enough to be a required procedure, and suggest the following Guideline be added to achieve that purpose: Area-vide 50% shall be implemented to provide specific guidelines for the management of each resource to ensure it to worsell protection or enhanced to expect the commitment of the second of the commitment of the second of
 - e. We request that the following also be added to the SOPs: An inter-agency interdisciplinary team process will be used in development of Allotsent Management Plans (AMPs) and Mational Environmental Todicy ACT (MPRA) evaluation of waterahed withdrawals, land disposals, and other Team Plans and Plans and Plans and Plans and William Plans Team Plans and Plans and Plans and Plans and William Plans and Plans Team Plans and Plans and
- 154-13 4. Page 24, Issues Considered but Dropped From Further Analysis, Livestock Grazing Decisions.

	2	3
154-13 cont:	In reference to the sentence "These will be addressed, a necessary changes made after the RMP, using established procedures based on vegetation and stream condition monitoring". The following should be added "The established procedures should include the implementation of 50%; and utilization of an Theorem 100 to 10	154-18 contiguous riparian corridors along both perennial and intermittent streams to provide migration routes and the fine of the continuous continuo
154-14	 Page 27, Determinations That Will Not be Nade in This Pl. Item 3. We disagree insofar as soil and water objective not addressed. They should be included in the RMP throw applicable SOPs designed to apply to those resources. 	es are 54- q be displayed in the RMP. For streams containing
154-15	6. Page 29, Desired Plant Communities (DPCs). Management f. DPCs is a strongly positive step toward responsible mana of the land. However, the RMP states that only 30 perceithe RA will be managed for DPCs. We urge the BLM to ultimately expand the area covered by DPCs to encompass	all stream reachès regardless of bank protection rating, sement Furtheracre, we believe an alteration rating of 20 percent t of should apply for all other streams regardless of bank protection rating.
	entire RA. This could be accomplished by adding lands identified for improvement as initial areas are brought and the proposed for addition, and their priorities, should identified in the RMP in order to avoid the need for fut Plan amendment to achieve it. We believe the final document to be considered to the proposed for addition, and their proposed to be an extended to the location of the currently identified acreage to be an	level for a five-year period will require a use adjustment, should be modified by changing the second are sentence to read: "Utilization that exceeds this level shall trigger use adjustments to eliminate the excess area, utilization the following year".
	for DPCs, the total acreage of each existing habitat type a prioritization of those remaining lands to be included future DPC management.	in
154-16	7. Page 39, Organization of the Alternative Descriptions, St Needs. No commitment to meet these support needs is identified in the RMP. Without this commitment implement of this Plan may be jeopardized. We suggest that this important commitment be made in a section such as General Policy on page 25.	standard is to prevent overutilization of bitterbrush by altion livestock, we believe that some measure such as the foregoing one must be implemented the following year or the situation will be a recurring one.
154-17	18. Page 49, Alternative 4 Decisions, Item No. 8, second to a last paragraph, right column. Add the statement "restrict recreation use when there is a conflict with wildlife or natural resources" to the last sentence, as in Alternative.	ting addition of the following (underlined) statements, but would other object to the decision if they are not included: "Maintain
154-16	9. Pages 46 and 50, Alternatives 3 and 4, Decisions. a. The year-long protection afforded to aspen groves, meadows, and riparian areas should include a 300-foot buffer for listing in alternatives 3 and 4.	area streams, subject to valid existing rights and "No decision to approve any project resulting in reduced decision to approve any project resulting in reduced that the existing stream-associated uses will not be adversely affected." These recommended changes are crucial to the maintenance of adequate habitat for aquatic resources and could inadvertenity be degraded in step-vises progressions each could inadvertenity be degraded in step-vises progressions each
		minor in itself, until the resource is gone.

154-22 cont.	Due to widely fluctuating instream flows within the RA, the unconditional application of 10 year mean monthly flows could result in the diversion of an environmentally damaging amount of water during periods of extremely low flow.	164-29 cont.	The habit as the Ow animals a
1	11. Pages 59 and 61. Bridgeport Valley MA. Alternatives 3 and 4.	1	7. Page 73,

- Pages 59 and 61, Bridgeport Valley MA, Alternatives 3 and 4. Stream reaches proposed for withdrawal from locatable mineral exploration and development should include a one-mile-wide buffer on either side of the stream.
- 12. Page 60, Bridgeport Valley MA, Alternative 4, Management
 These. This should be modified to the following: "Emphasize
 scenic, recreation, cultural, and wildlife while accommodating
 some socio-economic demands in the wicinity of Bridgeport."
 Emphasis should not be placed only on areas in Virginia and
 Dog creeks.

154-23

154-26

- 13. Pages 60 and 61, Bridgeport Valley MA, Alternatives 3 and 4.
- a. Travertine Not Springs Area of Critical Ecological Concern
 (ACEC) decision regarding mineral withdrawls should be
 travertine deposite has already disrupted unique wildlife
 habitats. Further mining activities could disrupt
 habitats occupied by unique wildlife such as the
 the rederal Endangered Species Act: for ilsting under
 the Pederal Endangered Species Act:
 - b. A decision should be added to "<u>involve the BLM in lake</u> level determinations for Bridgeport Reservoir In order to optimize fish, wildlife, and recreational potential".
 - 14. Pages 63 and 65, Bodie Hills MA, Alternatives 3 and 4,
- a. Specific improvements to stabilize and restore selected stream channels should include the following: "Stabilize streambanks by utilizing structural and nonstructural methods where appropriate."
 - Add Rattlesnake Gulch to the list of stream channels to be stabilized or restored.
- 15. Page 69, Granite Mountain MA, Alternative 4, Decisions. The decision "No net increase in roads over mileage provided for in OHV studies" should be added as stated in Alternative 3.
- 16. Page 73, Long Valley MA, Alternative 4, Management Theme. Add the sentence "Recreational use and geothermal development are secondary to wildlife" as stated in Alternative 3. The Long impacts from geothermal and recreational development.

The habitats are of a unique nature and contain species such as the Owens dace, the Great Basin springsnail and other animals and plants of special concern.

- 7. Page 73, Long Valley MA, Alternative 4, Decisions.
- a. Item No. 3. Add the underlined phrase to the following sentence: "Provide for recreational hot spring use while mitigating impacts to threatened and endangered, unique species, and species of special concern, riparian areas,
- Add the decision "Develop habitat for Owens dace and Owens tui chub."
- c. Add the decision "Yearlong protection for Great Basin
- springsnail."

 18. Page 76, Benton MA, Alternative 4, Decision Item No. 2. The
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- 154-52 19. Page 81, Owens Valley NA, Alternative 4, Decisions. Our concerns for the disposal of over 2,400 acres are the same as identified above for the Benton NA proposed land disposal.
- 20. Pages 80 and 82, Owens Valley Ma, Alternatives 3 and 4, Decisions. There is also the potential for occurrence of the potential for occurrence of the potential for occurrence of the potential potential for the potential potential for the potential potential for the potential form of the potential form of
- [54-54] 21. Page 86, South Inyo MA. Alternative 4, Decisions. We support the seasonal protection of prizing falcon meeting habitat in Long John Canyon. However, the RMP should state how such are is included within the area afforded protection. The RMP also should state that the same level of protection will be applied to any additional nesting sites located in the future.
 - Pages 85 and 86, South Inyo MA, Alternatives 3 and 4, Decisions.

154-80

154-35

- a. This section should contain a standard for maintenance and/or improvement of habitat for Townsend's bly-eared bat, Owens Valley vole, and other species of special concern or sensitive species such as the lago Mountain, as an almander, a such and for redetal listing, and a California Species of Special Concern. We have provided the BLM with the most updated lists of State- and Federally-listed species, as well as a list of DTC Special Anianals* which includes Species of Special Concern. We believe the list of Special Anianals should be included in Appendix.
- b. The DTG is pleased to see a standard for enhancement of mule deer and quall habitat by development of water sources in the Inyo Mountains. We also note that a significant portion of the Inyo Mountains is designated as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). We are concerned that designation of the Inyo Mountains as a WSA, and eventually, as wilderness, could preclude deep the conventually, as wilderness, could preclude deep the conventual to the control of the control of the conventual to the control of the control of the conmanaging the area as a WSA, and also for management of the area as wilderness.
- Pages 88 and 89, Owens Lake MA, Alternatives 3 and 4 Decisions. 4

154-36

- a. Owens Valley vole should be included on the list of species for which habitat will be protected and enhanced.
 - b. We support the acquisition of habitat for snowy plover.

154-37

24. Pages 88 and 89, Owens Lake MA, Alternatives 3 and 4, Support Needs. We strongly support the livestock exclosures on Ash, Cartago, Cottonwood, and Braley creeks.

154-38

25. Page 89, Transmission Corridor. We cannot concur with any of the proposed alternatives for a transmission corridor. The impact analysis on page 209 for the proposed alternative, Soldier Canyon, fails to identify impacts to at least two species of Special Concern), both of which would be potentially subject to electrocution or other mortality. The identified level of impacts to bald eagles (20 mortalities) and ferrogious hawks 15-10 mortalities) could also be applied to golden eagles and oppry. Tremain. But the property of the concern eagles. 154-38 cont The negative impacts to tule elk calving habitat are not consistent with the recommendations made in the Owens Valley Tule Elk Habitat Hanagement Plan signed by the BLM in 1986. A specific recommendation for the Tinneabh herd states "Theel". This recommendation recognizes the critical nature of calving areas and other seasonal habitats. Construction related disturbances and establishment of maintenance roads into an unroaded area will hamper the ability to prevent off-road

The need to establish a utility corridor within the Owens Walley is also questionable. Based on the need analysis on a walley is also questionable. Based on the need analysis on corridor within the Owen was a precedure to the control of the control of the transmission paths, if sited correctly, do not necessarily translate into greater environmental impacts. The three transmission paths, if sited correctly, do not necessarily translate into greater environmental impacts. The three environmental impacts as control of the correct of the of the corre

Due to these concerns, we believe that the transmission corridor should be removed completely from the RMF and analyzed in a separate DEIS. That DEIS also should evaluate all the power of the Deems valley. See the control of the Deems valley. See that DEIS also should evaluate a see that the corridor must go through the Owens Valley and precludes analyzis of other less environmentally damaging alternatives outside of the Owens Valley as identified in the page 206. In addition, the BMF corridor study did not incorporate an assessment of impacts on adjacent land uses and resources. The least environmentally damaging project alternative within this RM may be completely unacceptable to proposal.

154-39

126. Fage 129, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. The assessment of stream habitat indicates that the majority of stream miles are in unsatisfactory condition and should be improved. We concur that "all stream miles in poor or fair condition classes need improved management." The inventory of spring conditions surveyed require improved management; it also stated that ephemeral lake beds are influenced by existing management practices. The DFG strongly recommends that our suggested AMGs and SOPs be incorporated in the RMF in order to affect the required improved management for these aqualtic habitats.

27. Page 129, paragraphs 4 through 6. The information displayed is contradictory. Water quality in the BA is stated as being nutrients, fecal contamination, a "sediment pollution problem", etc. The existing water quality situation indicates current management practices are insufficient to maintain sedimentation, indicating it is attributable to "removal of vegetative cover within a watershed", which initiates sediment pollution yield to channel quality in a paragraph of the problem.

The fact that suspended sediment criteria for coldwater aquatic life are regularly exceeded is not acceptable. Because the most likely cause of identified water quality problems any be present range management practices, we believe apparently existing in earlier knappement Pramework Plant (RFPs) which direct current grazing management. The DFG believes that such impacts to water quality are significant and should not be eliminated from analysis in the RFP. We believe the identified problems could be resolved, or at least pand our supersted AMFG and SOPR.

| 154-4| | 28. Page 133, Table 3-4. Add Little Alkali Lake Creek to the list of Long Valley Area streams containing Owens dace.

154-42

- 29. Page 134, last paragraph. Consider our comment No. 27 above pertaining to stream shabitat quality apply. In addition, data of the page of the page 13 and 13
- Page 135, Spring Associated Wetlands. The identified adverse impacts resulting from livestock grazing could be improved by adoption of management for DPCs, and our suggested AMGs and SOPs.
- 31. Page 143, Livestock Grazing. The statements pertaining to current livestock grazing practices, which have resulted in unsatisfactory condition in stream/riparian zones, springs, wellands, and ageng grows, reinforces our recognition, of the direction, and the need for substantive changes directed by management for DPCs, and suggested ANGS and SOPs.

154-42 conf. We also believe the statement should be substantiated that ".. development or revision of 10 AMPs and construction of new range improvements have improved livestock distribution condition and wildlife habitat". A listing of the 10 AMPs for section, or Appendix 5, should also contain a description of the RA's overall grazing monitoring program, how it has been implemented during the past 10 years, and a summary of grazing and separative program of the RA's overall grazing monitoring the state of the past of the state of

154-43

32. Page 145, Bridgeport Valley, prograph 3. The descriptions reparting BMA inda ismediately adjacent to Bridgeport Beervoir should include descriptions of previous and exfating reservoir water level and water quality problems having adversely affected fish, wildlife, and recreational resources pool requirement to protect these values.

154-44

33. Page 157, paragraph 4. The identified tenuous situation of the Owens speckled dace and Great Basin springsnail populations reinforces our concerns regarding the cumulative impacts of land disposals in the Benton area, particularly with respect to water resources.

154-45

- 34. Page 159, paragraph 3. Adverse impacts of City of Los Angeles water spreading activities on the fishery resources within the Owens Valley RA within or adjacent to Bix lands should be amounts and seasons or diversions, locations of diversion points, and existing right-of-way which authorize the use and occupancy of Bak lands for such purpose. In addition, any identified, The DrO has concerns that unscreened diversions are entraining large numbers of resident trout which are then lost in apreading areas on the alluvial fans. These streams greater wild trout component than the hatchery catchable trout component. We believe it imperative that the reproducing wild trout propulation be protected from unscreened diversions and
- Page 169, Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area. See comment No. 25 pertaining to potential unidentified impacts to Deep Springs Valley resources.

154-46

36. Page 175, Assumption No. 6. Prudent planning in the RA needs to include the likelihood of drought. Therefore, the assumptions should acknowledge a high probability for extended dry periods.

154-47

154-4R

154-51

37. Pages 176-177, Impacts to Water Quality. The discussion on BMF page 149 paragraphs 4-6 suppersets that peter under quality impacts described in alternatives 1 and 2 are not minimal. We believe these impacts are clearly significant and mitigation for them should be incorporated into alternatives 3 and 4 by inclusion of management for DPCs and improved AMDS.

38. Page 195, Impacts on Riparian and Fisheries Habitat, Alternatives 3 and 4. Both alternatives currently identify continuing habitat degradation due to problems including livestock grazing. This appears to substantiate that current grazing practices do not meet fish and riparian objectives. Continuation of the practices which result in such adverse impacts should be unacceptable. We recommend that this appears of the problem of the problem of the problem of the problem of the problem.

39. Page 197s to 199, All Alternatives. As mining development could have significant impact to fish and widdlife resources, and since economics is such an integral part of the process regarding decisions to mine the public's resources, we believe the economic analysis supporting the conclusions regarding increase in Room County's tax base should be disclosed for

140. Pages 201 and 202. Impact on tivestock Grazing, Alternatives 3 and 4. As livestock grazing has been identified as having substantial adverse impacts to fish, wildlife, and riparian resources, and since economics is such an integral part of the decision-making process regarding the range resource, we believe the economic analysis supporting the conclusions that "impacts on livestock grazing both regionally and on the BLM promittees" should be fully disclosed. extingues to 19 permittees" should be fully disclosed.

41. Page 239, Appendix 1, Desired Plant Community Definitions. We strongly support the adoption of management utilizing DPCs as the best means identified in the RMP to correct identified degraded fish, utilifie, and riparian habitats resulting from the resulting the properties of the resulting from the resulting the properties of the resulting properties about the properties of the resulting the definitions should not be required however, to improve the management of aquatic habitats.

We recommend the following DPC be added: "Desired Plant Community for Aquatic Vegetation in streams and springs within All Management Areas. Desired Plant Community for aquatic vegetation in streams and springs: The goal of the DPC is to optimize the abundance and diversity of rooted and nonrooted aquatic vegetation within aquatic habitats by maintaining a vegetative component which reflects 100 percent of the habitat capability.

additional goals are improvement of instream cover and substrates for fish and invertebrate populations. This DPC will require the maintenance of adequate vater quantity and quality to support selected plant species. The vegetation of management interest is composed mostly of species in the following genera: Nastrutium (vater cress), Banunculus (butterup), Myriophyllus (milfoll), Potamogeton (pondweed), Accara (sedge), Leman (duckweed), Acolla (water velvet), Juncus Caraca (sedge), Leman (duckweed), Acolla (water velvet), Juncus Restore of (cfisin the natural vegetation complex in a late serial or potential natural community condition.

42. Page 246, Table 1, Noneligible River Segments. We request that the noneligibility of fill Creek in the Coleville No substantiated. Our knowledge of the stream reach suggests that it may be eligible.

43. Page 269, Standard Operating Procedures. We believe the following SOPs should be included. Due to the number (70) of these recommended additions, it is suggested that SOPs ultimately be categorised into discrete sections, such as; Fish, Fire Protection, Range, Ripatian Areas, Watershed, and implementation: Caecilates referencing and implementation:

 In crucial wildlife habitat (winter ranges, fawning/calving areas, strutting grounds, etc.), construction work on projects will be scheduled during seasons when the animals are not concentrated to avoid or minimize disturbances.

In pronghorn use areas, all fence construction or modification will meet construction specifications as per the BLM Manual.

 Design range, fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and/or silvicultural prescriptions to maintain or enhance riparian area dependent resources.

4. Use fencing for protection of riparian areas only where no other viable alternative exists. Areas that consistently show riparian resource damage or abuse shall qualify for fencing.

Limit wildfire control and rehabilitation methods that may adversely impact riparian zones.

154-52

154-53

avoid dozer lines within riparian zones or dozer lines rumning parallal to stream courses within 150 feet of riparian zones. Do not remove shrub skeletons within riparian zones except where absolutely necessary to ensure suppression. Give priority to rehabilitation of dozer lines within 150 feet of riparian zones.

- Include deer forage requirements (five pounds per deer day) in the allocation of livestock forage.
- Conduct annual utilization checks during the grazing period on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats in grazing areas.
- Implement, in coordination with the US Forest Service and DFG, the Pacific Coast American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan prepared by the USFWS.
- 9. Implement the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan.
- 10. A Plan of Operation filed pursuant to 43 CFR 3809 shall be required for all mining operations within an ACEC so as to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. Also, all mining activities in WSAs, South Tableland, or Alabama Hills shall obtain a Plan of Operation so filed.
- 12. Special stipulations shall be written to apply the regulations contained in 43 CFR 3809 to individual mining claim development projects that disturb five or more acres on BLM administered lands.
- Protective stipulations shall be applied to all mineral and geothermal activities in areas under wilderness review.
- 14. All waterways determined as eligible for study pursuant to the Wild and Scenic River system shall be protected in a manner that maintains the existing water flow and quality, in addition to protection of the riparian zone, and any other values supporting the waterway's eligibility.
- 15. Any mines proposed for closure during mineral development or exploration should be surveyed for use by widdlife, particularly bats. If bats are present, mines should not be supported by the surveyed for the widdlife species potentially inhabiting mines, such as owls, raptors, ringtail cats, etc., should also be considered when designing gates for mines. Sealing of mines should not be done during the winter or maternity potential for use, by bats.

154-53 cont. If sealing of known hibernacula or maternity roosts must occur, rather than gating, it should be done only in the early spring or the early fall so as not to trap and destroy any hibernating or lactating bats within the mine.

- 16. Consistent with E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands, we recommend that the RMP contain a guideline similar to the California Pish and Game Commission's policy to assure no net loss of either wetland acreage or resource value.
- 17. Consult formally with the USFWS on any projects potentially impacting Federally-listed endangered or threatened plant or wildlife species. The USFWS should be consulted informally regarding projects impacting proposed species and species under formal status review.
- 18. Consult formally with the DFG concerning potential project impacts on State-listed endangered or threatened species of wildlife or plants and for consideration of proposals for introduction of any nondomestic or plants or animals to new areas.
- 19. Conduct intensive field inventories of specific areas where impacts to rate plant species may occur. Full Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection will be afforded to all USTWS species that are formally listed or which are candidates for threatened or endangered nature. The control of the control of
- Benefit/Cost analyses shall be performed on improvements required to implement new AMPs and other appropriate activity plans prepared subsequent to the DEIS.
- Permanent roads are not to be constructed into any project sites. Instead, existing access, off-road travel, or temporary roads which could be rehabilitated after construction activity will be used.
- 22. The clearing of vegetation from project sites shall be limited to only the amount necessary to accomplish the project. All disturbed areas shall be rehabilitated, where such action is practicable, to replace ground cover and prevent erosion.

- 23. Manage all stream reaches of essential habitat as depicted in the Recovery Plan for any threatened and endangered fish to the following guidelines in consultation with the USFMS.
 - a. Prevent any activity from resulting in more than 10 percent degradation of the habitat within any given stream reach. Demonstration of the results must be supported by a quantitative survey methodology.
 - b. Restore unstable or eroding stream banks to attain a system in which the banks are no more than 10 percent unstable at any diven time.
 - Retain vegetation adjacent to perennial streams that affords shading and bank stability.
- Manage all stream reaches of all State designated wild trout or catch-and-release waters according to the following:
 - a. Any activity that results in trampling and chiseling should be limited to no more than 10 percent of any given stream reach. Only activities are water-dependent may be permitted such laceway. A reach is defined as a continuous portion of a stream with homogeneous physical characteristics.
 - b. Restore unstable or eroding stream banks to attain a system in which the banks are no more than 10 percent unstable at any given time.
 - c. Control activities to enable streamside vegetation to provide a minimum of 90 percent of the habitat's capability to provide stream shading and cover.
- Manage all stream, reaches containing resident fish according to the following:
 - a. Any activity that results in trampling and chiseling should be limited to no more than 20 percent of any given stream reach.
 - b. Restore unstable or eroding stream banks to attain a system in which the banks are no more than 20 percent unstable at any given time.
- Design and install stream crossings to accommodate fish passage wherever proposed roads or trails cross streams supporting active or potential fisheries.

154-53 cont.

- Maintain stream flows needed to support existing resident fisheries.
 - Maintain water levels in reservoirs and natural lakes to support fisheries and recreational values.
- 29. Coordinate with the DPG to establish standards for viable populations. Proposals resulting in depletion of resident or migrating fish must always be formally coordinated with the DPG pursuant to the Pish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and perhaps others.
- Manage grazing allotments according to a planned management system.
- Develop range Allotment Management Plans before term permits are issued. Incorporate in those plans provisions for implementing BMPs for range management.
- 32. Use individual grazing allotnent plans as an instrument to guide avoidance of damage to soil, water quality, and fish habitat and to achieve resolution of incompatibilities between livestock and known key mule deer fawning areas. Institute positive measures such as delaying the grazing season and/or directing livestock away from tiparian areas had allotnent ting, water developments, or fencing. Amend allotnent ting, water developments, or fencing resolution and needed mitigation measures. If it significant is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage, livestock grazing will be reduced or claimated.
 - Develop a priority schedule, with an annual review of Allotment Management Plans to be revised over the planning period.
 - After AMPs are revised, they shall be updated every 10 years.
- Consider implementing the potential for benefit to fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and watershed as well as range when designing range improvements.
- 34. Assess impacts on riparian areas within permit boundaries during grazing permit reevaluations. Require structural and/or nonstructural measures to correct unacceptable deterioration of riparian dependent resources.
- 35. Graze meadows only when "range-ready".
- Conduct annual utilization checks on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats in grazing areas.

- 37. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service for administration of shared grazing allotments to implement existing plans.
 - Where feasible, locate all range improvements away from travel corridors, especially trails, fisheries, and other water-courses.
- Allotment Management Plans shall display use, improvement, maintenance, and other management data.
- 40. Use criteria shall be established and documented for each unit of each gracing allotent. These criteria will be developed through the interdisciplinary team approach using long-ters trend studies and identified limiting factors. These criteria will define permissible grazing levels to be observed in the process. As soil and vegetation are the basic resources supporting the use, the condition of these two resources must be maintained or
- Return all lands in declining watershed condition to equilibrium.
- 42. Grant extensions of season of grazing use only when this
- Give emphasis to riparian-dependent resources in the management of riparian areas.
- Protect streams, stream banks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and the plants and animals dependent on these areas.
- Prevent significant adverse riparian area changes in water temperature, chemistry, sedimentation, and channel blockages.
- 46. Use ANPs as the vehicle for ensuring protection of riparian areas from unacceptable impacts from grazing. Institute positive measures such as salting, herding, rotation, and other grazing systems to effect protection. If measures are unauccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage to reliable to the high resource damage to reliable to the protection.
- Rehabilitate and/or fence riparian areas that consistently show resource damage from any cause if conflicts cannot be resolved in a manner to avoid such resource damage.



- 48. Allow new developments and surface disturbance in ciparian or aquatic areas only after on-site evaluations have determined that dependent resources are not adversely affected. Adverse riparian or aquatic impacts should only control of the property of the property of the property should be thoroughly mitigated through project design and implementation specifications.
- Require the following waterbar spacing on trails in riparian areas, unless specifically determined otherwise by on-site project evaluations:

Trail Gradient (percent) Spacing (feet)

1-5	200
6-10	150
11-15	100
>15	50

- Maintain the integrity of desert springs throughout the RA to conserve and protect plant and wildlife habitat.
- Recognize the important and distinctive values of riparian areas when implementing management activities. Give preferential consideration to riparian dependent resources when conflicts among land use activities occur.
- Give priority to the rehabilitation of riparian areas when planning range, wildlife habitat, and watershed improvement projects.
- 53. Concurrently with performance of management activity, implement effective controls on its induced accelerated soil erosion, if any, to prevent exceeding natural background levels within three years after the soil disturbing activity occurs. At no time should such management activity be permitted to induce turbidity levels beyond background levels in any surface water containing fish life, except under permit from the
- 54. Avoid the use of soil disturbing equipment, off highway vehicle, and trampling by livestock on wet or poorly drained soils.
- Use earth retaining structures or other special methods as needed on steep slopes or in areas of instability.
- Conserve the surface mineral and/or surface organic layer of the soils by minimizing soil disturbance to maintain long-term productivity.

- Store topsoil on-site in areas subject to mechanical disturbance. Respread as the top layer immediately following project completion.
- Avoid land alterations that could potentially cause significant soil erosion and loss of soil productivity.
- Stabilize all areas disturbed by management activities to minimize soil erosion.
- 60. Apply BMFs when implementing ground disturbing activities that may reduce the productivity of the landbase or cause surface erosion or mass wasting, and to meet water quality water on the RA. Identity methods and techniques for applying BMFs during project level environmental analysis and incorporate into the associated project plan and
- Limit disturbance to no more than five percent per decade on that portion of a management area characterized by steep slopes, very high erosion potential, or high instability.
- 62. Obtain water availability assurances for existing and foreseeable future nonconsumptive uses through the right-of-way permit and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "4e Report" processes.
- 63. Nanage watersheds with the highest priority being maintenance and protection of existing healthy watersheds. This should come even ahead of rehabilitating degraded systems.
- 64. Require the following waterbar spacing on dozer constructed fire lines:

Slope gradient (percent)	Spacing (feet)
1-3	300
4-6	250
7-9	150
10-14	125
15-20	80
21-40	60
41+	40

- Retain all instream flows needed to maintain stream channel competence.
- 66. Construction activities within streams should avoid sedimentation in the aquatic zone and must comply with the State's Fish and Game Code as to notification and incorporation of appropriate measures.

154-53 Cont.

- 67. Locate roads and trails on natural benches or ridges well away from stream courses and other water bodies where possible. Avoid constructing roads and trails that parallel or cross tributaries to a main stream.
- 68. Use the steepest permissible pitches and grades for roads and trails at stream crossings to avoid paralleling the stream. Design the crossing to maintain the existing width:depth:velocity/flow ratio of the stream.
- 69. Heavily armor the streambed both upstream, downstream, and at each road, trail, and livestoch path crossing that has neither a bridge nor a culvert. Give highest priority to streams that contain threatened or endangered front support of the contained of
 - Spacing of cross-drains on unsurfaced roads should use the following as a guide, unless site conditions dictate otherwise:

Road	Gradient	(percent)	SPACING (feet)
	1-3		1200
	4-6		700
	7-9		400
	10-14		250
	15-20		120

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ROVIRONMENTAL HEACT STATEMENT

California Department of Fish and Game 1416 9th Street, 12th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 327-5656

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Overall, the direction taken by the Proposed Bishop Resource Management Plan and Fraft Environmental Impact Statement (RMP) is very good. It is clear that planning and project development for the Bishop Resource Area generally will be driven by protection for natural resource values related to tourism, recreation, and hunting and fishing rather than cosmodity production only. In particular, wildlife resources have been consensuated to the property of the RMP of the RMP

154-54

The Department is concerned, however, that sensitive plant resources are not given sufficient detailed attention in the RRP. Wildlife is a major lanue in the RRP and one of the questions to be resolved is ...what will be done to protect and enhance habitat of sonsitive/protected animal and plant species..., yet no states of the animal two plant resources in the Janning area. Therefore, no actions are presented supwhere in the BRP that detail management to protect or enhance any sensitive plant habitat. Although the Department is pleused that the Preferred Alternative (No. 4) provides for yearlong presention of vanitive plant habitat, we request more pro-active planting and proposed management actions to protect and enhance sentitive planting.

154-55

The Department is concerned that no comprehensive sensitive plant inventory work has been done by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in preparation for the development of this RMP. Although the RMP staff have obviously used the Department's Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) products and/or consulted with local California Native Plant Society (CNPS) botanists to develop the sensitive plant list for the planning area, without an adequate floristic inventory of the planning area prior to developing the RMP, protection and enhancement actions for sensitive plants often consist of undesirable, last-minute mitigation efforts for projects already planned or in progress, i.e. it is impossible to adequately plan. In addition, floristic surveys for the entire planning area would give the BLM a better understanding of the sensitivity and status of each located sensitive plant population. Sensitive plant surveys on a project-by-project basis tell little about the status of a discovered population in relation to the overall distribution of the plant. This can lead to inappropriate protection or enhancement actions (either too much or too little) for the plant

Throughout the BMP there are decisions proposed relating to the 154-55 and initial tion of private land or disposal of BMA land for various reasons. Nost of the land exchanges are relatively small, however, a 56,000 care disposal is proposed for the Benton Hanagesemat Area (MA). Nowhere in the RMP could we find a map that adequately delineates the parels to be disposed of or exchanged. The Department requests that these proposed land transfers be presented on maps in the final RMP or that we can evaluate them in more

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

| Fage 28, General Policy, 1: The Department requests addition of following wording from Fights: "Management will be on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield" [Section 102(a)(7)].

Page 26, General Policy: The Department requests the addition of the following items of general policy: a) HM will coordinate and consult with the California Department of Fish and Game with regard to projects or research that may or would affect State threatened, endangered, rare or special concern animals and plants.

Page 28, Area Manager's Guidellnes, 2.: The Department requests
that the wording of this guideline be changed to:
"Vegetative goals for vildlife and sensitive plant
will be given strong consideration in relationship to
livestock forage needs. Permitten-desired practices will
be maintained, provided vegetative goals and habitat
quality are met." These minor changes bring the intent
of tomal festion the every result of the Control of the C

Page 25, Area Managor's Guidelines, 5: The qualifier "To the extent practical,..." gut the good intentions of this guideline and leaves it wide open to interpretation of what is practical. In its current form the guideline is meaningless. The Department requests that the wording maintained, restored or improved access wall be maintained, restored or improved.

Page 27, Area Manager's Guidelines,: The Department requests that a maditional guideline be added: "Activities or projects that will destroy or degrade sensitive plant habitat will not be allowed."

Page 30, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Although FLPMA directs that BlM give priority to identification and designation of ACECs during land sanagement planning and

154-62. com:	the BMP proposes five new ACECs, there is scant information presented in either the BMP or the ETS about the areas considered for ACEC designation, the natural values or hazards each has, and the rationals for proposing areas as ACECs.	Pag	es 80-62, Bridgeport MA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: Travertine Hot Springs (MNO-017) is recognized by the Department as a Significant Natural Area. We are therefore supportive of BMM's decision to retain
	BMM ACEC designations are an important component of a statewide natural area network being coordinated by the Interagency Natural Areas Coordinating Committee (IMACC). Providing ACEC information only through documents in the party of the State. Summary information should be presented which allows render to evaluate the ACEC		Travertine Hot Springe as an ACSC and to develop an activity plan (management plan?) which will address the needs of the sensitive species of plants and animals in and around the area. The Department is also supportive of the locatable sincral withdrawls proposed for several areas within the MA, particularly Travertine Hot Springs ACSC.
154-63	identification and melection process and deterains what important resources are present that will be protected. Page 36, Table 2-1, Area-Wide Summary of Decisions: The Department request that monsitive plant habitat be listed under the yearlong protection item in the Wildlife Section of the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative 4%)	154-67	os 64-67, Bodio Hills Ma - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: This Ma contains three Significant Natural Areas or portions thereof: Mormon Mendow (NNO-000), Beauty Peak portions the second contain (NNO-024). In addition, populations of second contain (NNO-024). In addition, throughout the MA, including Kilonous betterme, a species not sentioned in Appendix 6. The travertime
	Pages 49-51, Area-Mide Alternative 4: Preferred Alternative: The decisions here are generally every good, including the decision to protect sensitive plant behistate year round. The wording is generally active and unqualified, leaving little question about the intent of the decisions.		band-thigh diving beetle (Rygrotus fentinglis) is also known from a collection along Clearwater Greek, 6 miles south of Travertine Hot Springs. Mining and livestook graxing can be derrimental to populations of these species if it is not carefully sanaged and monitored.
154-64	The Department requests that the following decision be added: "Monitor populations and habitat of semantive plants on an annual or seaf-annual basis to determine long-term trands in numbers of individuals and quality of habitat."	154-60	The Department requests that the Management Theme for this MA be amended: "Manage to improve wildlife habitat, enhance recreation opportunities, and protect sensitive species and scenic and historical values."
154-65	Pages 58-57, Coleville HA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: The management theme, decisions and rationale all meem to emphasize wildlife and sensitive plant repource	154-69	The Department requests that the following decision be ammended: "Vehicle routes impacting important mule deer and mage grouse concentration areas and sensitive plant habitat will be closed"
	protection and enhancement. On page 93, in Table 2-2, it is mentioned that 10% of the riparian area will auffer from decreased habitat quality due to trail construction along Slinkard Treek Tributary 1 and there may be a loss of up to 18% of riparian vegetation due to a 6% stream/spring flow diversion. The Department requests that any	154-70	Stabilization and restoration of selected stream channels to improve equatic habitat quality and introduction of game fish should proceed only after Clearwater Creek and others are surveyed for the presence of travertine band- thigh diving becide.
	impacts to riperian habitats from proposed projects be avoided if at all possible.	154-70A	The Department is concerned that conversion from cattle to sheep grazing on all allotments could be detrimental to the populations of sensitive and State-listed plants
154-66	The Department requests that more information about the proposed Slinkerd AGEO be presented in the BMP. How does the AGEO relate to the Department's lands in Slinkerd to MOV and coordinated management plan be developed the MOV and coordinated management plan and Department so that the lands in Slinkerd Valley and Department so that the lands in Slinkerd Valley as a managed on a landscape level as a natural area for		occurring in the Significant Natural Areas and throughout the MA. We encourage Bilt to assess the impacts of cattle versus sheep grazing on these sensitive plant populations thy conducting some replicated experiments in a pilot allotment) prior to encouraging the changing of grazing regimes.
	recreation use rather than have three separate agancies with three different land management plans for the area?	Page	na 69-71, Granits Mcuntain MA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: This MA contains several scattered populations of
		i	

the RMP proposes five new ACECs, there is scant information presented in either the RMP or the EIS about the areas considered for ACEC designation, the natural

Astrogalus pseudiodanthus, a federal category 3C a SNA /MNO-001). In addition to habitet for many aquatio sensitive plant and a portion of the Mono Pumice Flats species, the Fish Slough area supports several 154-75 (MNO-013) Significant Natural Area. populations of Autragalus lentizinosus var. piscinensis and Calochortus excavatus. These sensitive plant species RIM status reports on file at the NBDB document the should be mentioned in the description of the Benton MA negative impacts to Astragalus pseudiodanthus populations and addressed in the decisions for Fish Slough ACEC. from livestock grazing, particularly fence trailing, soil Specifically, the Department requests that: 1) the disturbance and trampling. The Department requests that normistions and habitat of these plants occurring within the Management These for this MA be assended to include the Fish Slough ACEC be monitored on an annual or semihabitat protection for sensitive plants in addition to annual basis to determine long-term trends in numbers of wildlife. individuals, amount of predation, and habitat conditions. 2) the ACEC management plan should be ammended to Mono pumice flats are a distinct and globally endangered eliminate grazing in Zone 1, and 3) the BLM should fund natural community. They are found only in Mono County. and implement a study of grazing effects on these species California and occur primarily on U.S. Forest Service and their habitats. land. These Dumica flate and their associated flore are considered by the Department to be a Significant Natural The Department requests rewording the following Area (SNA). The Granite Mountain MA contains the 154-76 decisions: northern portion of this SNA which also includes "--Yearlong protection of Owens pupfish, Owns tul populations of two sensitive plant species, Astragalus chub, Owens speckled dage, Cwens valley vole, Great Basin monoensis and Lupinus duranii. The Department requests springenail and sensitive plant habitats." that yearlong projection for this SNA he edded to the "Coordinate with CDF&G in the reintroduction of decisions section for this MA. endangered and sensitive fish species and the management of andangered plant species" Pages 73-74, Long Valley MA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: RLM lands in the northern portion of the MA make up much Pages 81-82, Owens Valley MA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: of the Long Valley SNA (MNO-003). Host of the sensitive 154-77 The Department requests that the following decision be species locations which are included in the SNA are for ammended to aid: "Maintain or enhance habitut tor the the three sensitive plants mentioned in the Long Valley following sensitive species: Owens speckled dage. MA description (pages 153-154), however Owens tui chub, Great Basin springsnail and sensitive plants. Owens speckled dace and Travertine band-thigh diving beetle populations are included. The Department is very supportive of the decision to acquire land along Hogback Creek. Hogback Creek is The Department believes that the statement that the Ma's recognized as a SNA (INY-061) because the riparian sensitive plant populations are "static" (page 153) is vestetation supports the extremely rare. State listed an assumption. Records on file at the NDDB indicate that Yellow-billed Cuckoo and the aprings contain rare many of the sensitive plant populations on BLM land have springspails. With public acquisition and proper not be monitored since the early 1980's. Since livestock management of the riparian vegetation, it may be possible grazing, mining and road construction are all activities to restore the habitat to a point where it could support that are known to impact these sensitive plant apecies. a breeding pair of cuckoos. the Department requests that the following decision be added: "Monitor, on an annual or semi-annual basis, the Two additional SNAs containing BLM land have populations populations of sensitive asimal and plant species known 154-78 of Calochortus excavatus and Sidelcea covillei: Keough to occur on the BLM portion of the Long Valley SNA. Pond (INY-045) and Alabama Hills (INY-035). material at the NDDB documents the impacts to these Pages 76-78, Benton MA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action: sensitive plants from mismanaged and unmonitored The Department requests that a map be presented that livestock grazing. Livestock damage to these plant adequately delineates the >5,000 acres proposed for populations and their habitat throughout the MA should disposal. be eliminated through changes in grazing management practices required by new Allotment Management Plans The Department is supportive of the decision to retain (AMPs). Specifically, the proposed AMP for the Alabama the Fish Slough ACEC designation and provide yearlong

protection of the area. In addition to being and ACEC

and National Natural Landmark, the Fish Slough area is

154-71

1634-72

1524-73

154-74

Hills allotment should require protection for these plant

species and their habitats. Necessary actions must be

taken to retain "natural" soil moisture conditions and

154-78

103-79

1531-81

native vegetation in areas where Sidalcea govillei is found.

Another SNA, Kearange (INT-053), contains habitat for the extremely rare <u>Oryctes meradonals</u>. Again, there is documentation the livertook grazing impacts the populations and habit to this sensitive plant. Action should be taken to climinate damage to this plant from livestook vrazing.

The sensitive plants which occur in the MA and the threats to their populations and habitat should be described in the MA Description (pages 157-160).

The Department requests changes to the following support needs:
"Develop species recovery plans in cooperation with

USFAWS and CDF&C on management actions and introductions of threatened and endangered

Pages 85-87, South Inyo HA - Alternative 4: Proposed Action:
The sensitive plants which occur in the HA and the

154-80 The sensitive plants which occur in the MA and the threate to their populations and habitat should be summarized in the MA Description (pages 160-182) as they are for other MAs.

The Department is supportive of the decision to prohibit livestock graving in the MA and not to dispose of the 22,000 acres of BLM land in the vicinity of Owens Lake.

Page 97, Table 2-2, Alternative 4:

Degradation of 13-20% of resultive species what is the state of the st

Page 107, Table 2-2, Alternative 4:

Again, degradation of sensitive (plant?) opportunities or habitat it inconsistent with the goal of populations or habitat it inconsistent with the goal of yearlong protection of sensitive plant habitat. The Department would not accept population or habitat degradation to censitive plants, particularly State listed threatened, endangered or rare species.

Page 267, Appendix 6, Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species and Related Designations:

The following sensitive plants and animals do not appear in Appendix 8 but are known from within or very near the boundaries of the MA and may occur on or utilize resources on BLM land. They should be considered for 154-82

inclusion in the T/E/S species lists unless it is confirmed that they do not occur on any BLM land within the MA:

DI.AMTC

Astragalus pseudiodanathus C3c Eriogonus microthecus var. panasinterse C3c Eriogonus beatlerge C3c Hackelia brevirula C2

Accipiter gentilis Northern Goshawk CSCs

ANIHALS

(Some of these animals receive special management attention in the RMP but are not included in the T/E/S list)

Asia ptus Lond-eneed Ovl. CSCe
Sutce Maxingsoni Swainson's Nawk State Threatened
CSCSTAN americanus secnionislis Western Yellow-billed
Cuckoo State Endangered
Falce mexicanus Prairie Falcon CSCe
Lateria virea Yellow-breated Chat CSCe
Marten Pennanti Rasifica Pacific Pisher CSCe
Khitch Pennanti Sasifica Pacific Pisher CSCe
Khitch Western Sasifica Pacific Pisher CSCe
Khitch Western Sasifica Pacific Pisher CSCe

* CSC = California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern

Bridgegort

- d. We strongly support the prohibition of grazing throughout the proposed Convay Sugart ACEC due to the area's high scenic, watershed, fishery, deer fawning and other wildlife values.
- e. ACEC activity planning for the Convey summit area should emphasize natural e. According plaining for the convey summer was resource values where recreation use is contemplated.
 - 3. Page 64. Bodie Hills MA: Alternative 4. Procesed Action
- a. DPC goals should apply to all lands within the Management Area. As an 154-94 siternate strategy, the DPC goals proposed in Alternative 3 should be applied to the proposed action.
- b. Enhanced recreation opportunities should include hunting for sage grouse. other upland birds, waterfowl, and big came.
 - c. DFG supports the designation of the Copper Mountain allotment as an ACEC sand the prohibition of grazing there to protect critical wildlife habitat.
- d. Due to potential effects on wildlife resources, we submit that the term "unnecessary and undue degredation" should be specifically defined as regards adverse impacts in the Rodie Roul
- e. An extensive network of roads and trails now exists in the MA to the detriment of natural resources. DFG opposes the construction of any 440 routes (as proposed on page 66). We maintain that many routes could be eliminated and any loop system should be achieved through use of existing roads. The Bodie Hills CRMP process has failed to implement a meaningful road closure program. The RMP should specifically direct this needed program.
- f. The current HMP directs and permits grazing levels which continue to cause source detriment to natural resources in the Bodie Hills. The CRMP process has failed to improve the cituation. Specific direction for grazing programs is necessary to prevent continued degradation; such direction should be spelled out in the RMP.
 - 4. Page 69. Granite Mountain MA-Alternative 4: Proposed Action
- a. All lands in the MA should be subject to DPC goals. Specifically, all 154-99 riparian habitats should be targeted for DPC compliance, and the extensive Critical deer migration corridors and winter ranges in the MA should reclave priority emphasis reparding DPC anal achievement.
 - 5. Page 73, Long Valley MA- Alternative 4: Proposed Action
- a. DPC goals should apply to all lands in the MA. We support the proposal to enhance sage grouse meadow habitat through livestock management. We are also inal convinced that changes in livestock management are needed to improve the vital upland habitats where depletion of understory vegetation severely limits productivity of grouse.

- 150 b. An additional decision is needed to permit weathermal leasing only where such development will be fully mitigated to preclude significant impacts to comt fish, wildlife, water, and scenic resources
 - 6. Page 76. Senton MA-Alternative 4: Proposed Action
- 154. | a. DPC goals should be applied to all lands.
- IFM | b BFG coposes the disposal of 5.382 acres of public lands due to the ing | meavoidable impacts to wildlife, scenic values, and water quality and quantity,
- c. An additional decision is needed to permit geothermal lessing only where 154- such development will be fully mitigated to preclude significant impacts to 103 | cational macrophenic of
- d. We strongly concur with the need for an AMP for the Marble Creek allotment 154- to improve deer winter range. Such planning to benefit deer is also needed in 104 the critical Blind Spring Hill winter range nearby.

STATE OF CAUPORNA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Bishop Field Office 407 W. Line St. Bishop, CA 93514



GEORGE DEUKMERAN. Governm

Hike Perguson Area Hanager Bishop Resource Area Bureau of Land Hanagement -787 N. Hain St. Hishon. CA 93514

January 17, 1991

Dear Mike:

The following brief comments are submitted as an addendum to our detailed comments on the Draft RMP/EIS which are dated 1-17-91:

DTU opposes the decision to delete specific grating management planning from the [59-8] RHP. This Department substituted extensive comments in 1981 and 1983 reparating the Management Framework Plans for the Boths-Coleville and Beston-Consens Valley Management Frames. At those times, we pointed out that a continuous property of the Pointed Pointed Pointed Pointed Only of the Burnau's cont 1979 range survey data. For example, range surveys determined the capacity of the Pointed Point Pointed Pointed

fish, wildlife, recreation, and other natural resources in the planning area.

The eximing BMP's call for monitoring since 1981 to determine effects of this grazing strategy and to provide for adjustments. Such scantisering has been consistent to present the property of the provided of the constitution of range conditions. In press later, no edjustments have occurred. Depredation of range conditions of the provided of the condition RMP's, according issues have

In our comments on the Derift Planning Criteria and Pro-Planning Analysis for the BEP (125-58), we attacked urp notition that the document is inshedgence pursuant to META guidelines due to the delection of analysis of the effects of the grazing programs. (We benefit processor that the selection of analysis of the effects of the grazing programs, or will be planning document under META with the property of the proposed practice of the environmental effects of proposed practice programs.

We in DPO appreciate your efforts on behalf of natural resources on BLM lends in the Bishop R.A. I believe that the effort can be fruitful if the recommendations provided in this letter and our other correspondence are economounted in the first decision.

Sincerely.

Ron Thomas Wildlife Biologist Boecific Comments recording wildlife issues in Mono County

I Page 56 Coleville Ma-Alternative 4: Proposed Action

Due to the significant natural resources and depends for recreation within this Management Area, we believe that the decisions proposed should be strengthened according to the following recommendations.

- a. To achieve adequate protection for mule deer winter range, the decision to

 154-88 courier private land should include 200 acree of key habitat located weat of

 Eastside Lance in Antelope Valley and should provide for acquisition of 1751

 acree along Nichway 305 as recommended in Alternative 3.
- b. Current community planning direction calls for no net loss of private lands within the Walker-Coleville area. To enhance the possibility of equisitions of deer winter range, designation of public land for disposal chould be provided. We suggest such lands be designated in the vicinity of the Walker Landfill where wildlife walker are relatively listed.
- |54-86 | c. A decision should be added to "Protect and enhance the wintering bald eagles at Topaz Lake".
- d. All lands within the MA should be slated for adherance to DPC prescriptions and should be specifically dolineated, particularly in reference to provisions for deer winter range and aspending rain habitats. Particular emphasis should be given to DPC goals on eastern Antelope Valley Bage-Bitterbrush habitats which are in poor condition and are of critical importance.
- 6. The "unnamed creek" along Golden Gate Nine Road is known as Rodriguez Creek.
 - f. We recognize the support need for BLM coordination with the Tolyabe National Forest on the Forest's proposal for a "Snow Park Recrestion Ares" on Monitor Pass.
- g. We submit the support need to survey Topaz Lake bald eagle habitat to
 - 9 Page 60 Bridgemort Valley MA- Alternative A: Proposed Action

The Area's superb scenic values, riparian/aspen habitats, fisherics, key deer fewning habitats and recreational opportunities and deama indicate the need for amagement directed toward Natural Resource Enhancement (Alt. 3). Therefore, we heliver the Promoved Action should be sodified as follows:

- 154-90 a. All lands in the MA should be subject to DPC goals.
- | 154-9|
 | b. The Alternative 3 goal to acquire 2,175 ecres of private land should be encorporated in the proposed action. We support the disposal of 270 acres of public land only if such disposal will not significantly impact public natural resource values. Lands proposed for disposal should be mapped in the RMP to provide admental displacement.
- 164-901 c. Recreational terget shooting should be provided within 5 miles of

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 154 (California Department of Fish and Game)

154-1) The final document contains a decision directing no net loss of riparian or wetland areas.

> Our final plan decisions will protect, and potentially enhance, critical habitat elements for tule ells, deer, sage grouse, quall and pronghorn on Bureau land. We are required by the National Environmental Policy Act to examine a range of potential management atternatives.

> DPCs were not included in Alternative 1 because it recognizes current management only. Alternative 2 was directed toward intensive commodity development and reactive management.

- 154-2) The decision has been changed in the final so that there is no east-west corridor designated at this time. Also see response 100-159.
- 154-3) National Conservation Area designation will depend on public support for Congressional action, a process outside of the scope of this RMP. Thank you for your support. See also the general responses for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8) and acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 154-4) See response 154-2.
- 154-5) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 154-6) Wildfire suppression will be restricted to the most economical response consistent with resource values at risk. Bulldozers and other heavy equipment are prohibited from a variety of fragile areas (please refer to the final area-wide decision in Chapter 2).
- 154-7) The identification of monitoring as an integral part of the planning process has been clarified in the final RMP. An Area Support Need that addresses the use of monitoring to evaluate the effects of management on meeting resource condition objectives has been added. This Support Need also provides

for the modification of management to meet RMP objectives. Monitoring actions are included in all Allotment Management Plans and Coordinated Resource Management Plans. In addition, a section in Chapter 1 has been included to clarify that resource management planning is a dynamic process and that the RMP may be amended based on monitoring information.

- 154-8) Many of the RMP decisions will be implemented by activity plans such as Allotment Management Plans or Habitat Management Plans. These activity plans always contain a monitoring system for evaluation. During the last ten years, 45 out of the 69 allotments have neon monitored. The remaining 24 allotments have not been monitored due to limited livestock use. Twenty-five percent of the grazed acreage in the Bishop Resource Area has been monitored since 1969.
- 154-9) See response 92-6.
- 154-10) Throughout the RMP, an attempt has been made to establish resource condition objectives (e.g. DPCs) which avoid prohibiting specific actions. Consumptive use (e.g. mineral development, recreational uses, livestock grazing) would be authorized as long as resource condition objectives are achieved.
- 154-11) Our final plan states "strong consideration" will be given for watershed, wildlife, and sensitive plant habitat in relation to livestock forage needs.

The final plan states 'will generally not be allowed' regarding actions which would interfere significantly with maintaining or enhancing mule deer winter range. This statement also applies to actions interfering with sage grouse habitat.

- 154-12) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are indeed important enough to be highlighted more than they were in the draft RMP. As a result of your comment we have moved the SOPs from the appendix to Chapter 1, and have added an introductory paragraph with wording similar to that suggested in your comment. This has improved the flow of the document and highlighted the importance of the SOPs.
- 154-13) The Standard Operating Procedures were developed to provide basic parameters for actions resulting from the RMP. Interagency interdisciplinary teams have been utilized in the Bodie Hills CHMP effort, the Fish Slough ACEC plan, and the High Desert OHV plan. The Bureau recognizes the value of an interagency and interdisciplinary approach to developing site-specific management recommendations.
- 154-14) Based primarily on information from your Department, we have expanded our standard operating procedures to include a separate section on soil and water.
- 154-15) Please refer to the DPC general statement.
- 154-16) Support needs are an integral part of the proposed action. As stated in Chapter 2, support needs will guide BLM budgeting and programming. Implementation of the plan will ultimately depend upon the level of funding provided to the resource area.
- 154-17) Various prescriptions such as yearlong/seasonal protection, seasonal camping restrictions around sage grouse leks, etc. would adequately guide recreation use management.
- 154-18) Vegetation zones will not be managed with buffer areas. Decisions and SOPs in the final plan should adequately protect these vegetation types.
- 154-19) The final plan directs that stricter vegetative bank protection and streambank soil afteration standards be applied, if appropriate, at the activity plan level.

- 154-20,21) These decisions have been significantly revised in the final plan. Please refer to the final area-wide decisions regarding overall livestock grazing use, bitterbrush use, and sage grouse habitat-livestock grazing.
- 154-22) We have adopted your recommended wording regarding 95% of stream flows. Regarding your second statement concerning no reduced streamflow, we feel the decision maintaining 95% of present or 10 year mean monthly flow adequately protects instream and associated habitats.
- 154-23) Mineral withdrawals are an appropriate management tool according to BLM regulation in the instances where a parcel of land has both high mineral potential and also some other unmitigatable non-mineral resource which needs to be protected. See general response for geothermal, item 3.
- 154-24) We believe it would be difficult to emphasize scenic, recreation, cultural, and wildlife values and accommodate socioeconomic demands in the vicinity of Bridgeport. Therefore, we are leaving the theme unchanged, but assure you that these values will not be ignored near Bridgeport.
- 154-25) Mineral material sales are discretionary actions. If such actions are determined to threaten the ACEC, proposed sales could be denied.
- 154-26) We have adopted a Support Need in the final plan to participate with appropriate agencies in the determination of Bridgeoort Reservoir water level.
- 154-27) The activity plans for specific areas will determine the methodologies to repair degraded stream bank and channel conditions.
 - Our stream survey information indicates Rattlesnake Gulch channel stability is good.
- 154-28) Please see response 100-129.

- 154-29) Recreational use and geothermal development are both important to this area. We believe the resource condition objectives and protective measures established will protect natural resources sufficiently without explicitly making recreational use and geothermal development 'secondary.'
- 154-30) For part a. of your comment, the phrase "sensitive species" has been added to the final plan.

Parts b. and c. of your comment have been added to the final plan. The Owens speckled dace is also covered under yearlong protection.

- 154-31,32) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 154-33) The final plan includes a Support Need to inventory riparian habitats for the least Bell's virso and yellow-billed cuckoo in addition to determination of habitat suitability for both species in the Owens Valley management area.
- 154-34) If you are not already aware of the prairie falcon eyrie we can provide the information. The area is not defined since our intent is to ensure protection of the falcon site and surrounding area during the brooding and care and growth of the fledgling birds. Some actions may be less disturbing than others and would be administered on a case by case basis.
- 154-35) There are several decisions in the final plan which are based on standards for management of the species mentioned. Species identified as rare, threatened, or endangered by California are managed the same as federally listed species on public land by the Bureau. There is no Bureau policy which would permit us to recognize other state of California candidate or "special animal" species.

Water sources could be developed in those portions of the Inyo Mountains that are not within WSAs. Also, the Interim Management Guidelines allow developments which enhance wilderness values. A copy of these guidelines has been sent to you.

- 154-36) The Owens Valley vole is already afforded yearlong protection. The meadow and riparian DPCs will provide for enhanced habitat conditions for the species in Owens Lake management area.
- 154-37) Thank you for your comment.
- 154-38) Use of the Tinemaha Reservoir portion of the Soldier Carryon Alternative Corridor Area by osprey and golden eagle is cited in the final document. A condition has been added requiring the use of roadless construction methods in areas identified as Tule ellk habitat.

See the Need Analysis section of the general Corridor Study response. Concerning potential environmental impacts outside the study area, see response 91-14, 126-1, and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general Corridor Study response.

- 154-39) Some of your recommended area manager guidelines (AMG) and standard operating procedures (SOP) for these resources have been incorporated in the final plan.
- 154-40) Please refer to our response 154-14 as part of the answer to your comment. We recognize our largest problem with water quality exists in the northern one-half of the resource area. We expect, over the 20 year life of this plan, with implementation of DPC's, other decisions related to watershed repair and some standard operating procedures that water quality in most streams will be improved.
- 154-41) The Owens dace in Little Alkali Lake Creek are shown in the errata for Chapter 3, Table 3-4 in the final plan.

154-42) For your comment #29, please refer to our responses 154-14 and 154-40. Riparian vegetation trend information is available as part of the public record.

For comment #30, the final plan adopts DPC management and some of your suggested AMG and SOP's.

For comment #31, please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11), the "Monitoring" section in Chapter 1, and the area-wide monitoring support need in Chapter 2.

- 154-43) We do not have the information you requested for Bridgeport Reservoir. If you would supply us with information on the subject it could become part of the RMP public record and data used in reference to your comment 154-26.
- 154-44) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-8).
- 154-45) The information you suggest be displayed in the document is not available to us. We have requested complete information on all points you mention in your comment letter on the Owens Valley Groundwater EIR (letter to EIP Associates, January 28, 1991).
- 154-46) The RMP attempts to establish resource condition objectives through the Alternative 4 decisions. Through the adherence to area manager guidelines and standard operating procedures sufficient control is maintained over consumptive uses to continue meeting olan oblectives in dry vears.
- 154-47) Please refer to responses 154-14 and 154-40.
- 154-48) Springs and riparian zones are considered to be key management areas. Areas receiving unacceptable levels of livestock use have been identified and will be mitigated through allotment management plans, DPCs, AMGs, SOPs and range projects. In some cases grazing will be restricted with fencing.
- 154-49) Please see response 54-4.

- 154-50) These impacts have been revised in Chapter 4 of the final RMP.
- 154-51) We appreciate your concern for a DPC for aquatic vegetation. When appropriate, we intend to use an aquatic vegetation DPC in future activity plans.
- 154-52) Please see response 100-37.
- 154-53) Support needs have been categorized into discrete sections in the final RMP and several of your proposed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been included. A brief summary of our treatment of your proposals is provided below.

Proposed SOPs 2, 5, 7, 15, 18, 22, 26, 29, 32, 33, 36, 38, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 66, 67, 68 and 69 were incorporated as new SOPs or covered by existing SOPs. For example, proposals 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59 and 60 were incorporated into the RMP as 4 SOPs that address actions affecting soils.

Concerns expressed in proposed SOPs 1, 16, 23, 27, 28, 44, 45, 48, 50, 65 and 66 were covered by existing decisions, such as seasonal or yearlong protection areas, or addressed in new decisions.

Concerns expressed in proposed SOPs 3, 24, 25, 34, 35, 46 and 51 are covered by our decisions, DPC goals, Area Manager's Guidellines, existing SOP's and BLM policy regarding riparian and aquatic habitats. In regard to proposal 24, we are unaware of any state designated wild trout or catch-and-release areas on BLM land in the resource area. If such designations are made in the future, a cooperative agreement could be developed for their management.

Proposed SOPs 41 and 43 were incorporated into the Area Managers Guidelines concerning riparian areas.

Proposed SOPs 8, 9 and 47 were incorporated into the RMP area wide support needs.

Concerns expressed in proposed SOPs 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20 and 31 are covered by existing law, policy, regulation and Interim Management Guidelines for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Review.

Proposed SOPs 4, 6, 21, 30 39, 40, 42, 49, 58, 61 and 63 cover matters we feel are best left to activity level planning or can be implemented without planning guidance.

154-54) Sensitive plant information can be found on pp.148, 151, and 153, but was accidentally omitted from four management area descriptions. These data have been added to Chapter 3 in the final RMP.

The management area alternatives do not have decisions for sensitive plants because these decisions were under the area-wide alternatives. The alternative 4 decision for sensitive species is on p.50 of the draft. The Standard Operating Procedures on p.289 of the draft specifically mention sensitive plant habitat under I.C.1, and sensitive plant habitat has been added to I.B.1 and I.B.3.

Protection and enhancement of the populations will be generally handled within CRMPs, AMPs, and ACEC plans. Management of species outside of these types of management will be site-specific and will provide protection and/or enhancement of the habitat.

154-55) Eleven out of sixteen sensitive plant species continue to be monitored and inventoried. The populations of the remaining five species are currently being inventoried.

Impacts to sensitive species are always mitigated and are afforded USFWS and CDF&G consultation if adverse impacts are anticipated.

154-56) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.

- 154-57) This has been done.
- 154-58) Please refer to SOPs for Wildlife in the final plan.
- 154-59) Please refer to AMG #5 in the final plan.
- 154-60) The Area Manager's Guideline to which you refer has been changed in the final plan. Please also refer to Standard Operating Procedures which address your concerns for riparian vegetation.
- 154-61) See response 154-55.
- 154-62) This information is part of the administrative file.
- 154-63) Sensitive plant habitat is covered under "several plant communities". Yearlong protection for sensitive plants is a decision under the Area-Wide Preferred Alternative 4 on p.50 of the draft.
- 154-64) Please see the "Monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP, and the area-wide "monitoring" support need added to Chapter 2. Sensitive species/habitats have been and will continue to be monitored.
- 154-65) An area-wide decision in the final plan directs no net loss of wetland or riparian habitat occur. Loss of riparian or wetland acreage could be replaced outside the resource area.
- 154-66) As part of the public record, a relevance and importance summary has been written for each of the proposed ACEC's. These summaries will not be in the final plan. The ACEC boundary includes the CDF&G lands in Slinkard Valley (please see Alternative 4 Special Management Area map). The CDF&G would be included as a cooperating agency in the development and implementation of the ACEC plan. Tolyabe National Forest would be asked to provide resource information and their concerns for management of adjacent National Forest land.

- 154-67) Please refer to area-wide and management area specific decisions regarding protective measures for plant and animal habitat which would affect the Beauty Peak area. Masonic Mountain is on National Forest land and Mormon Meadow is privately owned.
- 154-68) Your comment has been considered. This is covered under the wildlife habitat statement.
- 154-69) The decision has been modified by adding "sensitive plant habitat".
- 154-70) Please refer to SOP's for Wildlife, #6, in the final plan.
- 154-70A) This decision has been changed in the final.
- 154-71) Your comment has been considered.
- 154-72) Big Sand Flat is habitat for the sensitive species cited, and under the area-wide decisions has yearlong protection. Yearlong protection for this "Significant Natural Area" will not be added in the final.
- 154-73) <u>Astracalus iohnannis howellii</u> was monitored in 1979-1982 with photo trend plots, utilization transects and 1/100 acre circular plots and in 1990 two utilization cages were established. The data indicate that trend is static. A population of <u>Astracalus monoensis</u> was surveyed in 1983 and 1985. The data indicated that trend was upward. <u>Eriogonum ampuliaceum</u> has not been monitored since inventories in 1979-1980. Please see response 154-64.
- 154-74) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 154-75) The sensitive plant information for this management area was accidentally left out. This has been added and can be found in Chapter 3 in the final RMP. See response 154-64.

The Fish Slough allotment, created in 1982 but never allocated to a livestock operator, is proposed for unallotted status in the

final RMP. This area is a portion of Zone 1 and 2. The remaining portions of Zone 1 and 2 are in the Volcanic Tableland allotment which has been grazed 5 out of the last 10 years. Grazing will not be removed from any other portion of the ACEC.

The BLM and LADWP are currently developing a grazing plan that will ensure no loss of the disjunct sensitive plant populations to which you refer.

- 154-76) Yearlong protection decisions are already afforded Owens pupfish, Owens tui chub and sensitive plant habitat under the area-wide decisions.
- 154-77) Area-wide and Owens Valley management area decisions in the final plan address your concern.
- 154-78) The populations of <u>Calcohortus excavatus</u> (CAEX) and <u>Sidalcea covillei</u> (SICO) near Keough's are in an area which was unallotted prior to 1981 and has been ungrazed by livestock for at least 15 years. The Keough's allotment created in 1981 encompassed the populations. This allotment has unallotted status in the final RMP. A trend plot and 1/100 acre circular plot were established in 1987. These populations currently are not beino impacted.

The CAEX (one) and SICO (two) populations in the Alabama Hills have not been inventoried and their status/impacts are not known at this time. These populations will be assessed in the near future. The Alabama Hills AMP will address these species.

The BLM is not aware of any populations of <u>Oryctes nevadensis</u> on public land near the Alabama Hills/Independence area. We will review CNDDB for this information.

The sensitive plant information for this management area was accidentally omitted. These data have been added to Chapter 3 in the final RMP.

- 154-79) Separate area wide Alternative 4 Support Needs address your concern.
- 154-80) The sensitive plant information for this management area was accidentally left out. A description is included in Chapter 3 of the final RMP.
- 154-81) Yearlong protection is directed at discretionary actions, which therefore would not adversely affect target resources. Some non-discretionary locatable mineral development could affect sensitive species populations or their habitat.
- 154-82) The Swainson's hawk has been added to Appendix 6. Please refer to response 100-6, 1st paragraph, for the complete answer to your comment.
- 154-83) Please see the "Grazing" general response.
- 154-84) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 154-85) The Walker landfill area has been proposed for disposal to Mono County via Recreation and Public Purpose patent. BLM land in this vicinity has little value for residential expansion due to the proximity of the landfill.
- 154-86) A Support Need has been added to Coleville management area, Alternative 4 regarding a Topaz Lake bald eagle habitat survey and determination of management needs.
- 154-87) Please refer to the DPC general response.
- 154-88) The correction has been made.
- 154-89) Please refer to response 154-86. As the bald eagle is a federal endangered species, the Bureau is mandated by law to ensure our actions do not further endanger it.
- 154-90) Please refer to the DPC general response.
- 154-91) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.

- 154-92) We are currently working with the local community to provide a site to meet this need.
- 154-93) Please refer to response 93-25.
- 154-94) Please refer to the DPC general response.
- 154-95) These activities would be included in the range of opportunities that are in conformance with the RMP.
- 154-96) This will be done within the ACEC plan for the Bodie Bowl through development of the "limits of acceptable change" which will include guidelines to protect cultural and natural resource values.
- 154-97) Please sae response 92-40.
- 154-98) Please see the "Grazing" general response.
- 154-99) Please refer to the DPC general response.
- 154-100) Please refer to the DPC and geothermal (p.5-15) general responses.
- 154-101) Please refer to the DPC general response.
- 154-102) Please see the general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 154-103) Please see the general response for geothermal.
- 154-104) Habitat management for the Casa Diablo deer winter range would be determined through a Habitat Management Plan as noted in Benton management area Support Needs.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL / HISTORICAL CONSULTANTS 609 Aileen St. Oakland, CA 94609 (415) 654-8635

January 19, 1991

Area Manager

787 N. Main St. Suite P Bishop, CA. 93514

Dear Sir:

155-1

Thank you for sending me the draft Halop Resource Management Plan and draft EES dated September 1990. I I find this draft IES inadequate due to the fact that it fails to gneeffcally state what the effects of large scale mining development near the National Historic Landmark of Bodie will be. It is expected that negative impacts upon structures and setting will occur, the state of the state of

Sincerely

Dr. Laurence H. Shoup

Partner

JAN 24 1991

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 155 (Dr. Laurence H. Shoup, Archaeological/Historical Consultants)

155-1) Please see general Bodie response which addresses these concerns.

January 17, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Area Manager:

It was very difficult to get through the <u>Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and B.I.S.</u>, partly because the organization is somewhat incoherent and partly due to statements and proposals regarding historic resource management that are vaque. incomplete, and superficial. For a resource as significant as the ghost town of Bodie and the historic mining landscape in and around the Bodie Bowl, much more attention should be paid to them specifically, especially in light of the possibility of an open pit gold mining operation getting started on and around around Bodie Bluff. The fact that Bodie and environs are a National Historic Landmark District is alluded to only once in the <u>Draft</u>, and there was very little information and no maps of appropriate scale in the document to indicate where the Bodie townsite and the Bodie Mining District are in relation to the possible open pit gold mine and what specific effects it could have on these resources. This is not sufficient data upon which to base a resource management plan. Therefore, the Bodie Bowl and environs must have its own management plan apart from the Bishop study. This is the only way the National Historic Landmark can get an open and fair hearing and a reasonable evaluation in terms of the potential impacts of gold mining within its boundaries. In its present status in the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan, the Bodie historic district is almost buried in the poorly organized compilation of data and policy statements covering a large and diverse geographic area.

Only one specific section of the <u>Draft</u> warrants comment here. The Alternatives offered under "Impact on Mining" (pp. 197-200) present economic and employment figures that are astounding. A search through the text revealed no information that could support these numbers, and there was not even a reference to another document or report that was the basis for these calculations. How were these estimates derived? What was the source or sources used for them? Without more information I can only conclude that they were provided by Galactic Resources, Ltd. If this is the case, then all the economic projections should be removed from this section of the Draft, and more objective estimates should be generated from sources with no direct economic interest in this issue.

These comments are my own and do not reflect the position of the Director of Parks and Recreation nor the policy of the Department.

Sincerely, Frank Lotte

Frank Lortie Historian II

Inland Region Headquarters Department of Parks and Recreation RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 156 (Frank Lortie)

156-1) Please see the general Bodie response (p.5-5) for a complete explanation of how your concerns were considered.

156-2) Please refer to response 54-4.



THEMONO LAKECOMMITTEE

P.O. Box 29 Lee Vining, CA 93541 (619) 647-6595 1355 Westwood Blvd./Suite 6 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 477-8229

January 17, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management - Bishop Resource Area 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishon. CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Resource Hanagement Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (BIS). We appreciate the tremendous amount of work that you and your staff have dedicated to this project and your excellent efforts to involve the public in the process.

I. The Relationship Between the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (MBNPSA or Scenic Area) and Bureau of Land Management (BIM) Lands

The Mono Lake Committee is not only concerned with Mono Lake, but also with the ecological health of the Mono Basin watershed and surrounding lands. With respect to ecological, visual and recreational resources, management of pureau lands surrounding the MENTSA should be consistent with Scenic Area management direction, since the management of one race can directly affect the other. This is particularly true for the anagement of lands within Mono Lake's hydrologic besin, and to lands that provide habitat for Willise from the Scenic Area and to lands that provide habitat for Willise from the Carlo Carlo Meno.

We appreciate your efforts to consider the outstanding natural resource values of the MBNFS in your RMF and RIS. However, in the comments that follow we will delineate how BLM's proposed management of lands surrounding the Scenic Area is not Service's Comprehensive Management Plan (CKE) for the MBMFSA. We realize that the BLM and Forest Service have authority only to give management direction for the lands under their jurisdiction. However, Mono Basin ecosystems, wildlife populations and sesthetic values do not observe artificial boundaries.

II. Watershed Withdrawals

The Mono Lake Committee is very concerned about the proposal

by BLM to recommend revocation of watershed withdrawals on all lands that are under Congressional and Executive Order withdraw status.

When Congress withdraw a sajor portion of Eastern Sierre federal lands for watershed protection in the 1911 Act, it asserted federal reserved water rights on those lands. We are concerned that revocation of the Act of Congress of 1911 will affect federal reserved water rights on Bureau lands, as well as federal reserved water rights on MurSAS lands. This could have serious adverse impacts for Scenic Area and Bureau resources. While any new Act of Congress could possibly reaffirm Federal reserved water rights, this is a politically contentious issue. The served water rights water than the politically contentious issue.

(Please note that the map on page 141 portraying existing watershed withdrawals is incomplete. The Scenic Area, while under jurisdiction of the Forest Service, also has withdrawn lands status, and this should be reflected on your map.)

The Bureau has not fully considered the ramifications of its proposal to recommend revocation of the Congressionally enacted and Executive Order watershed withdrawals. Additional NEPA documentation, including analysis of the above concerns, is needed. We request that you correct this deficiency in the final RMF/FIS.

It appears that the primary reason BIM supports revocation of watershed withdrawals is because of land acquisition priorities and demand for disposal of public land to the private should risposulsy explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives (REFA 40 CFR 1502.14(4)), including alternatives that epplore other legislative options to make needed lands

III. Visual Quality

The RMP repeatedly acknowledges the visual importance of Bureau lands surrounding the Scenic Area. As stated on page 117:

"The Mono Basin Scenic Area...is bordered by Bureau land including the Bodie Hills to the north, Mono Basin to the east, and Cowtrack Mountain to the southeast. Visual resource management along travel corridors to the Mono Basin Scenic Area and Bodie State Park have increased over the last several years."

157-2

157-1

Given the importance of BLM lands as an integral part of the Scenic Area's viewshed, why was only a VBM Class II objective of retention proposed for lands surrounding the Scenic Area rather than a VBM Class I of preservation? The VBM class I objective

7

is proposed for Conway Summit and the Bodie Bowl. Certainly the Hono Basin is deserving of this status as well. The GHF for the HRMFFS states that the Scenic Area "will be managed to maintain. A VHR objective of preservation of the Lendscape surrounding the Scenic Area would best preserve the visual integrity of the entire Mono Basin, and would be consistent with the management

Me are unclear as to the actual management authority of the VMM class objectives. We note that the Area Manager's Guidelines (p.27) include a guideline that "Actions violating VMM classes will not be allowed". Rowever, we question how you will resolve conflicts that arise between valid existing locatable and resolve the preferred alternative (p.71) that:

"Specific restrictions on geothermal and salable mineral development and rights-of-way were considered in Alternative 3 to protect the Mono Basin scenery. These restrictions are not part of the proposed action because the VBM II classification will adequately protect the Mono Basin Scenery."

Please detail how a VRM II classification will "adequately protect the Mono Basin scenery" when such conflicts arise.

TV. Geothermal Development

We are concerned about the potential environmental impacts of geothermal development on water and water dependent resources in and around the Mono Basin. Mater resources in the Eastern Sierra are precious, finite the control of the Part of the Pa

Me enclose a copy of a letter (dated November 26, 1984) from the Konn Lake Committee to the State Director of the BIM with regards to geothermal exploration and development in the Mono Basin (Attachment 21). The letter states that all Knon-Long Valley tracts that were offered in the July, 1983 geothermal lease sale vill include the following stipulation:

"The use of water resources in the Mono-Long Valley region is of critical concern. All operator proposals will be carefully evaluated for potential impacts to the quality and supply of surface and groundwater resources. Depending on the availability of surface or evolution and development may be restricted.

Proposals which would result in unacceptable impacts to those resources will not be approved or will require modification."

We approciate that the Bureau recognized the validity of our 157-3 concerns and incorporated protective language into its lease sales contracts. We request that you acknowledge that such a policy was applied to previous lease sale offers and will extend to any future lease sale contracts. We further request that the BMM lands and detail all amplicable quidellness and restrictions.

Statements in the RMP with regard to geothermal development are often confusing and contradictory. The characterization of the geothermal resource is one source of confusion. On page 22, the RMP notes that for the cormite Nountain Nanagement Area (MA),

"There may be some geothermal potential, but this has not been fully explored."
On page 137, the RMP states that:

"Geothermal potential in the Granite Mountain MA is relatively unknown..."
Yet on page 101, the RMP states that;

"70% of the 3 mile buffer zone around Mono Lake is in an area of high geothermal potential."

Just what is the status of the geothermal resource on lands surrounding the Scenic Area? In order for the public and other responsible agencies to give salient comment on the document, it is necessary to have an accurate and commistent portrayal of the status of geothermal development potential on BIM lands.

BLM states (p.74) that "development of geothermal resources on Bureau land appears unlikely in the near future." However, the characterization of the environmental impacts of geothermal development in Chapter 4 is based on flawed assumptions. On page 176, you state that:

"The potential for geothermal development will remain strongly tied to oil prices. Current projections ower the next decade show little or no real increase in oil and gas prices...Although catastrophic global energy and grant of the control of the control of the control reasonable nor toresceable and pain, they are faither reasonable nor toresceable and the control of the control these analyses" (emphasis in original).

Since the RMP was written, there have been significant and volatile changes in the world energy situation, as we are all well aware. Periodic resurgences of instability with regard to energy supply and deamand are likely to continue. The instability and the energy stuation regulars a realistic discussion of the energy situation regulars are all situation of the energy situation regulars are all situation of the energy situation regulars are all situations and the energy situation in the situation of the energy situation in the energy situation of the energy situation of the energy situation in the energy situation of the energy situation in the energy situation of the energy situation in the energy situation in the energy situation of the energy situation of the energy situation in the e

157-5

157-5

resources of the Bishop Resource Area. This discussion should also consider a "worst case analysis", as per the requirements of NEPA (40 CFR 1502-22(m)(2)).

157-6

Management direction for geothermal devalopment around the Scenic Area is equally confusing. On page 5, the RUP mentions consideration of a 1 mile buffer zone around the RBNFSA. On pages 9 and 101, the RUP mentions a "3 mile buffer zone around Kono Lake" as part of Alternative 3. On page 68, the RUP proposes, for Alternative 3, "Yearlong protection within 1 mile of the Kono Bamin Mational Forest Scenic Area to protect the proposed for the RUP proposed for Alternative 3.

157-7

As previously stated, we are concerned with your statement

"Specific restrictions on geothermal and salable minerals development and rights-of-way were considered in Alternative 3 to protect the Mono Rasin scenery. These restrictions are not part of the proposed action because the VRM II classification will adequately protect the visual resources near Mono Lake."

Given the outstanding scenic values of the MMNFSA and the strong emphasis placed on saintaining and enhancing visual quality in the Scenic Area's CMP, we question whether the VMM II classification is strong or binding enough. It is our understanding that BLM's visual quidelines may be assended if a proposed action conflicts with VMM objectives. Therefore, your proposal to place a minimum 3 mile buffer zone around the MEMPSA would be much more effective in protection of scenic and other

Finally, in the event of future leases, unless there is a significant increase in the level of environmental documentation and analysis in this EIS, an additional EIS will need to be completed.

V. Desired Plant Communities

We commend the BIM for attempting to implement a proactive management strategy by using the concept of Desired Plant Communities (DPC's) to establish resource condition objectives on the Resource Area. However, we have serious concerns about the use of DPC's in place of more comprehensive management direction grazing.

157-8

A major concern relating to DRC's is that DPC treatment is proposed for only 104,620 acres (144) of the Resource Area (D.26) (However, you have defined DRC's for key vegetation types covering 127,000 acres (104) of the Resource Area (Dr.29); what is covering 127,000 acres (104) of the Resource Area (DRC's treatment? The We infer from your document that DRC's treatment? The Resource Area will be managed under the "status quot". i.e. the 157-B

existing grazing EIS's for the MFP's. Indeed, as stated on page 200 of the RMP.

"The other 642,000 acres of vegetation in the resource area would remain in their present condition for the long term." (emphasis added).

My shouldn't the entire Resource Area should be managed for Dec conditions? Deservit the BMM have an obligation to senior and salitain wildlife habitat and plant communities throughout and salitain wildlife habitat and plant communities throughout and salitain wildlife habitat and concur that provide the sone critical wildlife and fisheries habitat, and concur that these lands wildlife and fisheries habitat, and concur that these lands wildlife and resource as spendar. Nowever, he remainder of the Resource Area cannot be spendar.

157-9

It is difficult for the public and other agencies to assess the potential effectiveness of DPC management when no maps are provided that show the areas proposed for DPC treatment. In your final RMP/RIS, please disclose the locations for proposed DPC treatment under each alternative.

157-10

The use of DPC's would be more defanible if an explanation of the process used to formulate DPC definitions, with references, was provided. The DPC definitions in Sppendix 1 appear to be well thought out, but what sources or guidelines were used to develop your definitions? On what ecological data are DPC definitions have been definitions and the declogical data.

157-11

In order for DPC management to be effective, an extremely intensive monitoring effort would be needed to see that the DPC definitions/prescriptions presented in Appendix 1 are being met. Is monitoring and achievement of such conditions really feasible given the limited budget upon which the BBM operator? Given the conditions of the present of the pr

VI. Grazing

Livestock grazing has conflicted and continues to conflict seriously with wildlife shundance and diversity, and quality of habitat in the Mono Basin and on surrounding Bureau lands. The CMF for the hamFF8A documents damage done by grazing to Scenic Area resources. The BMM/EIS presents overwhelming evidence (particularly in Chapter III) that livestock grazing, under classification of the Resource tractices, has severely affected wildlife, fisher landagement practices, has severely affected wildlife, fisher and property of the Resource Area. Disappeality, soils and other resources forbs and herbs, as well as seed or root sourceal native grasses, forbs and herbs, as well as seed or root source. Fiones: 1987). Livestock destruction of habitat for, and competition with, mult deer, promptom antelope, aseg grouse, vesper sparrow with, mult deer, promptom antelope, aseg grouse, vesper sparrow

0

(a good indicator of Great Basin grassland community), ripariandependent and marsh-nesting waterfowl, continues under current management practices.

Grains impacts transcend BM borders into the Scenic Area, as meither wildlife nor livestock are confined by artificial boundaries. Seasonal use patterns typically move livestock into and out of the Scenic Area from adjacent Burcaul lands. The RMP/EIS states that there are 5 allottents that are jointly managed by the BM and the Forest Service (the CMF and RIS for the MNNFA note (p.135) that there are 6 such allottents which is correctly BMR management of these allottents thus directly

157-12

157-13

These AMP's that jointly cover Bureau lands and National Trest Seenic Area lands should be prioritized for development or revision. The goal of the Scenic Area with respect to grazing is p.22). Direction is given in the CMP to work with the BMM to achieve this goal. We look forward to working with you and the Forest Service on the development or revision of these AMP's in a

You indicated to us (letter to MLC, March 30, 1989, Attachment §3) that "new decisions" would be made where needed and "will be addressed in the RMP," but that "previous planning decisions which have been analyzed through the REPA process, and additional analysis." While we appreciate your attempt to address these problems through DPC management, we do ngt believe that use of DPC's is an adequate substitute for addressing decisions such as the standard processing ERS's nearly ten years ago. These decisions - specifically utilization rates and stocking levels - affect thousands of acres or BMI lends and deserved to be

We submit that the draft EIS/RMP fails to adequately document the viability of these previous decisions and does not provide a sufficient level of detail to assert with confidence that biological and scenic values will not continue to deteriorate under any alternative presented.

The RMP states (p.38) that "Alternatives dealing with levels of use in certain 157-13 cont. graving allotments were considered but aliminated from further study because current decisions from the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodis-Coleville grazing EE's allow changes based upon monitoring of the resource. **

The above statement implies that changes related to grazing have been enacted or will be made in the future. Bo incover the past presupers, the results of the monitoring, nor what management changes have been made in the past ten years, or will be made in response to your monitoring results. Your letter of March 30, 1389, promised that such information would be "addressed in the

In order to justify incorporating by reference the 1981-1982 grazing ETS's and decisions made therein, please include in your final document the necessary data that is lacking in the draft document.

VII. Wildlife, Fisheries and Riparian Resources

The Mono Lake Committee commends you for your efforts to protect and enhance wildlife, fisheries and riparian resources in Alternative 3, the Matural Resources Enhancement Alternative. Descriptions of and impacts to harvest wildlife species, fisheries and riparian resources have been generally welldocumented in the RMP and EIS in Chapters III and IV.

157-14

Unfortunately, the emphasis throughout the draft BMF/EIS is weighted towards harvest spacies. Threatened, Endangered, candidate and sensitive wildlife species are briefly described, but in many instances, details are not provided of reasonably foreseeable actions that may adversely affect these species. In your final document, please provide additional information and analysis relative to these species, as per the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the BMI Manual.

157-15

We are pleased with the documentation of riparian habitat conditions and impacts in the EIS, and with measures proposed to protect, enhance and restore riparian resources. However, priority should be given to the complete inventory and protection of all riparian areas, and not solely those proposed for DPC treatment in your preferred alternative.

157-16

Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat would be greatly furthered by adoption of the 70 additional Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) proposed by the California Department of Fish and Game. We support adoption of these SOP's in their entirety.

VIII. Conclusion

We believe that the Bureau has truly attempted to take a proactive approach with regards to resource management in the eastern Sierra. However, the RMP and EIS need to provide more

information on issues of concern to the public. Necessary data must be disclosed to support conclusions made in the RMP and EX-Finally, your document should be better organized so that the proposed action and alternatives are clearly delineated, and the environmental impacts of implementation of the alternatives are adequately disclosed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the draft RNP and EIS, and for your hard work on behalf of the outstanding natural resources of the eastern Sierra. Please contact us if we may be of any assistance or can offer further clarification of our comments.

Sincerely

Adly Mulliv
Sally Millet
Eastern Sterra Representative

Jene Mandelbaum

attachments

#1 - letter, Mono Lake Committee to Ed Hastey, 11/26/84 #2 - letter, Mono Lake Committee to Mike Ferguson, 3/20/89 #3 - letter, Mike Ferguson to Mono Lake Committee, 3/30/89



THEMONO LAKECOMMITTEE

P O Box 29 Lee Vining, CA 93541 (619) 647-6386 1355 Westwood Blvd/Suite 212 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 477-8229

November 26, 1984

Ed Hastey State Director Bureau of Land Management 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hastey.

In re Appeal of the Dismissal of the Protest by the Mono Lake Committee to the Decision by the Bureau of Land Management to Approve Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale CA 13616 in the Mono-Long Valley KGRA - Lease Block II

We are in receipt of your lifter (3200, CA-922.5) of November 21, 1984, informing us that the Bureau of Land Nanagement will attach the following stipulation to all Mono-Long Valley tracts that were offered in the July 1983 geothermal lease sale:

"The use of water resources in the Mono-Long Valley region is of critical oncern. All operator proposals will be carefully evaluated for potential impacts to the quality and supply of surface and ground-water resources. Depending on the availability of surface on ground-water resources. Depending on the availability of surface or ground-water properties are proposed on the properties of wall require modification.

With the understanding that this stipulation will be attached to the above referenced leases when they are issued, the Nono Lake Committee hereby withdraws our appeal of November 16; 1984.

We appreciate that the Bureau of Land Hanagement has given serious recognition to our concerns on water use resulting from geochermal development. We look forward to continuing our participation in the public review process for geothermal exploration and development in this region.

Thank you for your help and consideration in this matter.

David Gaines

cc: IBLA, Arlington, VA Regional Solicitor, Sacramento, CA Union Oil, Los Angeles, CA Sierra Club, San Francisco, CA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the State of California. I am over 18 years of age. My oddress is P.O. Bax 29, Lee Vining. CA 93541.

On Navember 16, 1984 I served a true capy af

on the following persons by placing said capies in scoled envelopes with pastage fully prepaid and addressed os indicated below, and placing sold envelopes in the United States Hail at Lee Vining, Colifornia:

Ed Hastey State Director, BLM Federal Builing Raom E-2841 2800 Cottoge Woy Socromento, CA 95825 Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Deportment of the Interior
Federol Building
Room E-2753
2800 Cottoge Woy
Socramento, CA 95825

Interior Board of Lond Appeals Office of Hesrings and Appeals Department of the Interior 4015 Wilson Blvd. Ariington, VA 22203

Executed on November 16, 1984 or Lee Vining, CA.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the faregoing is true and carrect.

David Opines

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

In re:

Dismissol of Protest by the Mano Lake Committee to the Decision by the Bureou of Land Monogement to approve Competitive Goothermal Leose Sole CA 13616 in the Mono-Long Volley KGRA - Leose Block II

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Mono Lake Committee.

Appellont

The Mono Lake Committee hos protected to the Bureau of Lond Munagement, the chave referenced Dectified and hes nat received estification through that certify process. The Protect was dismissed on Cottober Line through the Court of the Cour

As pravided in 43 C.F.R. 4.2[a), the timely filing af this notice of oppeal supends the ection herein oppealed, prahibiting the Bureau af Lond Kanogement from issuing competitive leases of the lands in question while this appeal is pending.

DATED: 16 Nov. 1984

Respectfully submitted,

David Goines Chairman Mana Lake Cammittee P.O. Box 29 Lee Vining, CA 93541



THEMONO LAKECOMMITTEE

P.O. Box 29 Lee Vining, CA 93541 (619) 647-6595 1355 Westwood Blvd./Suite 6 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 477-8229

March 20, 1989

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Fergusen.

I am writing on behalf of the Mono Lake Committee concerning the "darst Planning Criteria & Fre-planning challesis, Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP)." We respectfully request that your planning team reconsider its decision to omit grazing as a critical issue to be addressed in the planning analysis. We believe that the planning process will be seriously impaired by the fallure to consider the additional bearing and impaired by conditions in the Bishon Resource Afra.

We have learned from the Department of Fish and Game that BLM's monitoring records (1980-1988) for the Bodie Planning Unit show an alarming trend of decline in the physical condition of riparian wildlife habitat and aspen groves, and in deer, antelope and sage grouse populations.

The effects of grazing on wildlife, fisheries and watershed conditions are increasingly well documented in the literature. It is inexcusable that while the management emphasis on most BLM lands is grazing, BLM's NEPA-mandated planning document excludes these practices from re-evaluation.

ARP is needed to respond to and re-emphasize all issues, address new issues that have developed in the last few years and provide complete compliance with the National Environmental responsibility of the National Environmental issues on criteria, IMM must address the continuing conflict of grazing management with its responsibility of protecting biological resources. None of the decisions listed as needed to resolve "Wildlife and sensitive plant and animal species" issues (pages formed and the continuing conflict on the sade without re-commishation of the grazing formed.

The draft analysis refers to the "Management Framework Plane" (HFP') for the Menton-Ovens Valley (1982) and Bodis-Coleville (1983) Planning Areas, as providing all the framework from Fish and Game's exclusion that these documents, now several years old, have falled to provide the guidance necessary to resolve grainsyllological resources conflicts. To proceed

Plan, in exclusion of the grazing issue, will result in a piecemeal planning process and inadequate environmental impact assessment.

In addition, we submit that the creation of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (MRNFSA) in 1944, is also a "new issue" that has developed since the issuance of the 1982-83 MFPs. The Scenic Area and the EM share a large common boundary to the north and east of Mono Lake. Management activities on EM lands, resources, and vice-verse. Profound affect on Scenic Area Profound affect on Scenic Area (Pascurces, and Vice-verse.)

The Mono Lake Committee is necessarily concerned with the management practices on BLM lands surrounding the MBMFSA because neither wildlife populations nor seemic vistas know artificial boundaries. The scolopical health, blotgical diversity and the second of the second second property of the second second property of the lands upland of the Scenic Area. For example, seasonal use patterns typically move livestock in and out of the Scenic Area from adjoining BLM and private lands from overgrazed and riparian areas heavily impacted, contributing to water quality problems in Scenic Area water courses. Migratory species, especially deer, arrive in the Scenic Area in a weakened state with poor fawn recruitsent, when winter range conditions on corridors is dewested by livestock.

Although riparian habitat supports more wildlife than any other habitat in the arid Eastern Sierra, some 60 of this rare habitat in the Knon Basin has been lost due to water diversions. Unfortunately, the remaining riparian areas throughout the basin have received concentrated grazing abuse: there has been seven to protection for wildlife or human uses for these remaining the control of the co

The aesthetics of overgrazing should also be addressed. The degradation of the landscape from grazing mis-management is highly visible, the more dramatic examples being: the prevalent barren moonscapes that are sheep bedding areas (often adjacent to streams or wetlands or in meadows), or the clouds of dust that denote where a thousand head of sheep trample the vegetation and solis, or the lack of streamside vegetation where sheep go to water and collapse stream banks. The resulting landscape water and the stream of the streamside that the sheep of the company is a region where recreational tourism is the base of the company.

There is a strong public mandate to manage the adjacent Mono Basin National Forcest Scenic Area for the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat and other natural values. (Please consult with the Scenic Area planning team on the responses they have received to their draft plan.) The draft Scenic Area Plan states the intention of phasing-out grazing. Given that BLM and the Scenic Area share certain grazing allotments, this issue cannot be ignored. It would be prudent if both agencies collaborated on how this reprioritization should translate into management in the field.

In conclusion, we request that BLM undertake a full analysis of the cumulative impacts of its grazing program on the biological and scenic resources of BLM and editorial lands when preparing the Bishon Resource Management Plan control

Sincerely.

Iline Mandelbaur
Ilene Mandelbaur
Eastern Sierra Representative



United States Department of the Interior



1614

(CA-017)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT BISHOP RESOURCE AREA 787 NORTH MAIN, SUITE P BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514-2498

March 30, 1989

Ms. Ilene Mandelbaum The Mono Lake Committee P.O. Box 29

Lee Vining, CA 93541 Dear Hs. Mandelbaum:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the draft Planning Criteria for the Bishop RMP. The success of the entire RMP process hingen on public participation. The Bureau appreciates the input provided by The Mono Lake Committee over the years and your participation in the RMP accoming sections.

As a result of your comments and the comments of others we are revoking the Planning Criteria to clarify how grazing will be dealt with in the Bishop RMP. A great deal of thought, discussion and public participation has gone into the question of how to deal with livestock crazing in the RMP.

Certain livestock grazing decisions ande in the 1982 and 1983 Management Framework Plans for the Benton-Demse Walley and Bodis-Coleville Plansing frame are attill valid. Examples of such decisions include: allotent boundaries; class of livestock, types of grazing freatment that night be used to seet the objectives of a given area; certain constraints such as riparian or sage grosse strutting promosed protection; etc. In areas where these previous decisions are attil

Some other aspects of livestock grazing are controlled by Bureau policy and do not require planning decisions. These aspects will not be included in the RMP. Examples include: allotsent categorization; and initial stocking rates (which are to be adjusted based on somitoring date).

Nowwer, there are a number of new decisions which do need to be made relative to Ilvestock grazing. In some cases, previous plans did not resolve whether livestock grazing would be allowed in cortain areas. In other cases, potential changes in the class of livestock were newer analyzed. Hew conflicts and additional inforestion have surfaced in some areas. These aspects of the investock grazing prograw vill be addressed in the ERP. The bottos line is that previous planning decisions which have been analyzed through the ERP process, and we will viable decisions will be certised forward without additional analysis. As well will be decisions will be certised forward without additional analysis. See made in all cases, including grazing, where previous decizions have not betted, were not analyzed, or for which new information have become available.

You are correct in the statement, "creation of the Mone Basin Mational Forcest Scenal Area (MBRESE) in 1984, is also a new issues. . .ince the 1982-3 MFPs." One component of the MFP process is coordination with other existing plans and management distortion of adjacent lands. The interaction between the Senaic Area statement of the MFPs. The MFPs was not been applied to the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the MFPs. The MFPs was also statement (IEE) proposed for the M

One comeon misconcoption is that the prisary management emphasis on BLM lands is livestock grazing. BLM is a multiple we append with equal responsibilities for managing tremendously important wildlife babitat, culture productions, which is concerned values, miscard resources, outdoor recreation opportunities, with lorense, hydroelectric and geothermal development as well as livestock grazing and a number of other progress and resource values. Therefore, the BUP and associated ELS will undertake a full analysis of the cumulative effects of all Eureau programs on all resource values on public lands and adjacent lands and sands and

I her, this clarifies some of your concerns. If you would like to discuss the RMP or any other programs in the Bishop Resource Area, please feel free to contact me at the above address or by telephone at (619) 872-4881.

Sincere

Michael a. Ferguson
Area Managar

cc: Holden Brink, Binhop Resource Area

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 157 (The Mono Lake Committee)

- 157-1) See general response for watershed withdrawals (p.5-8).
- 157-2) Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I is assigned to areas designated as scenic ACECs, wilderness areas, etc. No special designation was prescribed for the Mono Basin by the Bureau. Additionally, Congress geographically designated the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (MBNFSA) based on the area's most important scenic values. Since Bureau lands comprise the background viewsheds, we prescribed a VRM class that was compatible with the public land scenic values, MBNFSA management, and congressional intent. Please see responses 90-2 and 100-66 for further information.
- 157-3,4,5) See general response for geothermal (p.5-15).
- 157-6) See response 100-175.

The RMP is not intended to propose development guidelines and stipulations for future projects of unknown likelihood, unknown size, and unknown locations. As you state, site specific EISs will be required if and when projects are proposed.

- 157-7) Please see responses 90-2 and 80-12.
- 157-8 11) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 157-12) There are five allotments within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area that are jointly managed by the Bureau and the Forest Service
- 157-13) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 157-14) Please refer to responses 100-3, 100-4, and 93-3. Also note the analysis for these species is under the title of "Impact on Special Status Species" in the final plan.

157-15) An inventory of streams and springs has been in process since 1977. We continue to update our aquatic habitat data base as time and money permit. Our present emphasis for aquatic area inventory is physical condition of springs and their channels plus species living in the water column. There are AMG and SOP statements which directly address riparian area management.

157-16) See response 154-53.

Jack Shipley P.O. Box 515 Bridgeport, CA. 93517 Jan. 14, 1991

Michael Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

SUBJECT: DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BISHOP RES.

Dear Mr. Ferguson and B.R.A. Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the September, 1991 Draft of the Bishop Resource Area Resource Management Plan. Please retain my name on your mailing list on an "affected citizen", and send me all future materials of the send to the s

Basically, the B.R.A. is to be congratulated for putting together a good document. You obviously have some very competent people working hard on the Plan. The preferred alternative (Alt. IV) is a major step forward in conscientious planning and resource management. I personally believe that the resource enhancement alternative (Alt. III) is better and should be adopted. However, given the difficult political realities of the present, Alt. IV is an acceptable on the property of the property

- 1

158-1

MINERALS

The greatest weekness in the draft R.M.P.--and the greatest present problem threatening Invo and Mono Counties—is a virtually uncontrolled rush toward measure mineral executed by the second of the problem o

Rational restrictions need to be put in place now, with the following reasoning: (1) A natural area can easily be the following reasoning: (1) A natural area can easily be torn apart, but never, or only at great expense, be put back together; so we should always err on the side of caution, especially in our area. (2) No properly conservative steward spends (i.e. extracts) all his wealth immediately.

pits within ten years in these two counties.

5-487

so we should deliberately withhold most of our resources for future generations.

I recommend Alt. III as an absolute minimum for the Bodie Hills; in the vicinity of the Bodie Bowl all development, patenting, and future locating should be suspended. An effort should be made to buy back or trade for valid present claims and patents. Geothermal development should also be prohibited.

LAND OWNERSHIP

158-1

150-2

It is incomprehensible that the B.L.M. opens large amounts of land for entry as mining claims, utility corridors, grazing allotments, and even for sale for "community expansion", all of which represent private profit at the expense of resource damage. At the same time the Bureau remains totally tight-fisted against higher public uses and protection of the same land. For example, the State of California has requested repeatedly for over 25 years to be allowed to give greater protection to the Bodie area, whose cultural and natural features are of national significance. The B.L.M.'s refusal to cooperate has now produced a situation wherein those resources will suffer a major, permanent disfigurement, possibly beginning as early as this year.

No Federal land should be sold for development. Patenting of mining claims should be suspended, and the location of claims should be disallowed around all ten A.C.E.C.'s of Alt. III. In the case of Bodie, the approx. 7,200 acres of the Bodie Bowl and surrounding historically and naturally important area (from the railroad grade to Rough Creek) should be ceded either to the National Park Service or to the State of California, either one of which could provide the protection it needs and deserves.

UTILITY CORRIDORS

Similarly, it is irresponsible to promote development of new utility corridors. The primary stimulus for giving away 158-3 control of a half-mile wide path through pristine country is to save Southern California utility companies a few dollars. Would you cede to me a half-mile plot for my retirement cabin, so I could save a few dollars on real estate costs? Let these companies instead use the slightly more expensive, longer routes that have already been sacrificed to them. Better yet, let them simply learn to conserve energy.

158-4

By not setting clear limits on livestock damage, and under-estimating what damage exists, the R.M.P. abdicates the Federal responsibility in a sensitive and important issue. The B.L.M. is essentially playing a shell game: if people complain about the blatant destruction of a certain riparian area, the livestock is simply shunted off to

another place. Presumably, if the cows and sheep get moved far enough, the complaining stops. The damage, however, 159-4 The only real solution is reducing stocking cont does not levels. Greatly reducing stocking levels. Over-management (e.g. the grossly excessive fencing program, water "developments", etc.) are not a solution--merely another expensive subsidy of an un-economic industry--and another disaster for wildlife. Get it together, guys.

> The problems caused by the livestock industry are routinely under-reported by Federal agencies. For example, in the R.M.P. draft, in its discussion of the impacts of the different alternatives, there is no mention of the degradation of wildlife habitat from the runaway fencing program.

> Finally, I disagree with the recommendation to change from cattle to sheep in sensitive parts of the Bodie Hills. Sheep, although more manageable, are much more thoroughly destructive of flora, and sheepherders are famous for killing as many native predators as possible.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

I strongly support your efforts to protect more irreplaceable places as A.C.E.C.'s (p. 64-65). Alt. III's proposed total of ten is the best. Especially important is the full-sized Bodie Mtn. A.C.E.C., including Bodie and Potato Peaks, Rough Creek, and the unique (but seriously threatened) Dry Lakes Plateau. Also to be recommended is the Copper Mtn. A.C.E.C., with a grazing prohibition. Similarly, a grazing prohibition on a Conway Summit A.C.E.C. would be an excellent idea. Finally, the Travertine A.C.E.C., which I strongly support, should be enlarged to include other nearby springs, and have an adequate surrounding buffer zone of geothermal and mineral withdrawals.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Do not waste time and money designating "scenic" and 158-6 "backcounty" byways, which are contradictions in terms anyway. Instead, we should make a point of doing just the opposite: concentrate disturbance around areas that have already been damaged by roads, and leave the real backcountry pristine. Furthermore, the byways I am familiar with, such as those in the Bodie Hills, already have far to much traffic, dust and deterioration without being further advertised.

> Similarly, it is nonsensical to establish high V.R.M. standards for roadways rather than open space; the roadway is already degraded. On the other hand, I would support a V.R.M. classification of I for all ten A.C.E.C.'s of Alt. III, plus other prime areas, and V.R.M. II for all other undeveloped parts of the B.R.A.

158-5

158-6

Finally, I support the Wild & Scenic classification of all eligible streams, and at the "Wild", or least "Scenic" level, not "Recreational".

CONCLUSIO

Overall the draft is very good: the provisions dealing with wildlife deserve special praise. I support all those provisions—the stricter, the better. One philosophical suggestion that should be made is: there is more to life than money. Almost all justifications in the R.W.P. are made in commonic terms—what children's environment? I see thank you once again for the opportunity to comment, and good luck on the final draft.

jack shipley
Jack Shipley

cc : Brad Sturdivant Noah Tilghman

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 158 (Jack Shipley)

- 158-1) We disagree that there is an "uncontrolled rush" of mining activity in Inyo and Mono Counties. There is currently only one operational gold mine (Snowcaps), which is now shut down due to low grade ore. There is much industry interest in the Bodie Bowl area, but to date the BLM has received no plans of operation. Our development projections predict the most likely, as opposed to worst/best case, scenarios. Please see the Bodie general response.
- 158-2) In the RMP, proposed mineral withdrawals are limited to areas where mineral exploration or development would be likely to occur and where such activity could not be mitigated to prevent harming critical resources. See also the general response for Bodie. Turning the Bodie Bowl over to the State of California or the National Park Service would not extinguish the existing mineral rights which would still be administered by BLM. It would be more difficult to manage the lands with the resulting split estate than it is with the existing cooperative agreement between BLM and the State.
- 158-3) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

Designation of a utility corridor would not "give away" agency control over the use and management of lands within the corridor. Every project proposed for the corridor would be subject to specific design, construction, and location requirements as determined from an environmental impact statement which each proponent would be required to prepare. Specific mitigation measures, in addition to the measures identified on pp.90-91 of the draft RIMP, would be applied to all projects proposed within the corridor.

Concerning the use of longer routes, the Need Analysis (Appendix 8, draft RIMP) states that the need to maintain system reliability, and the increasingly restrictive use of space in the Las Vegas area, are greater concerns than is the concern of route distances. See also the Need Analysis section of the general response.

158-4) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).

Fence projects are analyzed through an environmental assessment and are designed to reduce impacts to wildlife habitat. Any additional impacts are mitigated. There have been three documented vildlifle deaths from fences in this resource area: one great horned owl, and two deer. The deer were caught in an exclosure fence that was built to study bitterbrush seedling production in order to determine rehabilitation methods for deer winter range. This exclosure has been removed.

The decision on the change of use from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP.

158-5) The areas not included in Alternative 4 as proposed ACECs (e.g. Alabama Hills, Long Valley, Copper Mountain, Bodie Mountain) are to meet resource condition objectives which are measurable improvements compared to present condition.

Final plan Alternative 4 decisions concerning the Travertine Hot Springs ACEC protect natural resources through yearlong protection of candidate species habitat (i.e. riparian, wetland areas), geologic features, cultural and Native American values. Also, the decision to propose the area for withdrawal from locatable mineral (e.g. silver, gold) exploration and development is retained.

158-6) Thank you for your comments. They have been considered and noted for the final RMP.

In regard to wild and scenic eligibility and classification determinations, please see response 152-1, paragraphs 1 and 5.

Mr. Mike Ferguson, Area Manager 787 North Main Street, Suite P Rishon, California 23514 January 15, 1990

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The following comments represent our chapters input to you on your Draft RMP/ELS.

The Eastern Sierra Audubon Society regards the lands covered by the Bishop Resource Management Plan to be among the most scenic, ecologically and culturally valuable of all lands administered by the BLM. Therefore, we generally prefer Alternative #8.

1. East-West Transmission Line Corridor. We strongly pose your preferred alternative through Soldier Canyon. This alternative would clearly suffer the most environmental damage. Your Els bears this out. Sensitive plants would be impacted, up to 30 % of the calving grounds for the Tule Elk would be destroyed, and there would be lethal impacts to reploys, including the baid eagles. This corridor has the alternatives.

The other proposed White Mountain corridors also would cause serious problems. All of them would have to emerge at the south margins of the Owens Lake, where it is admitted that there is little room between Owens Lake and the steep slupes of the Sierra. Visually, this would devastating no matter how much color mitigation was used.

The EIS analysis concedes that not only are the requirements for new corridors environmentally less desirable than using existing developed corridors which are in the Las Vegas also the costs for building the longer treasure and the contract of the contr

and other impacts in the Owens Valley and the east-west study areas".

150-2

We understand that the rational for utilization of the White Mountain corridor is supposedly for improved reliability. We have seen that it is high time that power companies denote more time and energy to engineering solutions to reliability rather than resorting to continual despoiling ands with high quality scenic and natural resource values. We uney you to not grant power companies the rights to these promosed corridors.

- 2. Milderness Designations. While we realize that these kinds of designations are not part of this plan, we do feel that the management direction for Milderness Study Areas needs to be in specific accordance with the Benton-Duens Valley/Bodie -Colvulle Final Milderness estimates the second of the Colvulle Final Milderness stronger reference to the Final Milderness EIS including maps. If some of the WASA become wilderness (and we hope they do) management adjacent to these WASA very well may need to be adjusted. This RMP should make provisions for this potential change, As you know, Congress could make wilderness determinations.
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- 4. Dff Highway Vehicle Use. Currently, there are thousands of miles of roads and trails inside the Bureaus resource area. Unfortunately, this mileage is increasing significantly every year. These additional miles are not planned miles but rather created at the whims of OPV sers.

- As a result, negative land use impacts (to all resources) are increasing. We do not see in this document a visible plan to solve the problem of increasing road and trail mileage or a general management philosophy to close the management philosophy to close the solution will be that now exist and which are causing significant
- 5. The RMP, on page 3 identifies management direction for every comparable to the understably loose. We suggest that this provide direction for 10 years with a mandatory update at the end of 10 years. All things change with time. We would prefer not to have someone make a judgment call like now it's time for an update after say
- 6. Land Disposal. Throughout the plan land disposal proposals are discussed. In many cases the reason for 159-6 disposal is community expansion. We object to disposals for this purpose. Inyo-Mono Counties are full of developers who are banny to divide land for the purpose of profit. We suggest that the majority of persons in these two counties would prefer to see the quality of life stay high and keep development within the confines of existing towns and developments. We are confident if you were to poll the folks who live here (excluding developers), you would find overwhelming support for a status quo of Bureau land ownership. We do support Bureau disposal of lands where you have serious administration problems. In those cases, the disposal should be through the process of land exchange in order to keep federal ownership as high as possible for the pleasure and use of ALL citizens.
- 7. Designations: As users of Bureau lands, we find no formal ONA designations for all resource lands' established (page 25). We view this to be critical for us to evaluate land use impacts.
- 159-8
 8. Soil and Water. These two major resources do not appear to be discussed to the level of other resourcer, i.e. recreation, wildlife, range. These values need to be managed to the same level as all resources not just discussed when they are impacted as a result of land use

159-8 cont. activities. We urge you to include them with all other resources in the final plan. This would be in Keeping with the manner other land management agencies handle these values. These values are far too important in the long run to relegate them to activity plan analysis levels.

159-9

9. Wildlife Management. We are pleased to see attention paid to rare and endangered species, as required by law. We support seasonal protection of the prairie falcon nesting habitat in Long John Canyon (pg. 85).

You have also analyzed potential impacts upon mule deer, sage grouse, pronghprn and tule elk. But there are hundreds of other wildlife species to be concerned about within each community. One way to help their survival is to formulate and implement DPPs

One of the standard operating procedures should be that BLM will pay special attention to species which depend upon water in riparian areas. This means that streamflows should maintain a standard flow rate and punity adequate to meet the needs of both humans and wildlife.

"Yearlong protection of aspen groves, meadows and riparian areas" (pg. 50) cannot occour without restaining nearby livestock. Buffer zones are essential. This is especially important in drought conditions when these zones should be established as soon as possible.

159-10

10. Range Management. Because of contradictory claims in the RPP, it is difficult to ascertain exactly what kind of restrictions, if any, are imposed on grazing. Nevertheless, assessment is provided of the declining range contition. Appendix I describes desired plant communities for various management areas. This evaluation should be done throughout management areas. This evaluation should be done throughout areas that need to be restored. Even as a contition areas that need to be restored. Even a state of the continue to be impacted by livestock resources would continue to be impacted by livestock by if DPCs were formed and adhered to. Me unconsulting the first processing the continue of the continue to be impacted by livestock that the continue to the continue to

159-10

strengthen your position on range management to include management for optimum habitat on all BLM lands.

159-11

11. Minerals. The BMP appears to be weak with regard to it's commitment strong law enforcement, monitoring, mineral removal and site restoration. None or through the adequately protect the significant cultural, historical environmental values present in the Bodie Bowl. Me urgs you to withdraw from mineral entry all of those lands that could be impacted by the Galactic mining proposal or any other mining proposal near the town of Bodies.

Following the printing of the Final RMP, we will be anxious to review your action plans for accomplishing the objectives and goals set out in this plan.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our comments, concerns and thoughts.

Sincerely.

Sylvia Colton, President

Eastern Sierra Audubon Society P.O. Box 1435 Bishop, California 93514 RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 159 (Eastern Sierra Audubon Society)

- 159-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 159-2) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 159-3) Please see response 80-1.
- 159-4) See general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 159-5) See response 80-5.
- 159-6) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 159-7) Please see response 80-7.
- 159-8) Soil, water, and air are addressed under Standard Operating Procedures in the final RMP. Water resources are addressed under springs, riparian, and streams.
- 159-9) We appreciate your concern with prairie falcons in Long John Canyon.

Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10) regarding your comment in the second paragraph.

Please refer to response 154-22 regarding your comment on streamflow in the third paragraph. Concerning streamflow purity, please refer to responses 97-4,d. and 100-188.

Methods for improving vegetation condition in those areas you mention in the fourth paragraph are to be determined in activity plans. Under yearlong protection, existing uses are to be managed to prevent disturbance which would adversely affect

the target resources (please see Glossary for yearlong protection).

159-10) Concerning your comment on declining range condition, Chapter 1 in the final plan includes this information by reference to the Benton-Owens Valley and Bodie-Coleville grazing EISs (1981 and 1982, respectively).

Concerning your comment on DPC, please refer to the DPC general statement.

Our statement, which you partially quote, that "riparian resources would continue to be heavily impacted by livestone grazing" describes a regional (eastern Sierra) influence. We have no direct authority or ability to improve riparian vegetation except on Bureau administered land in the resource area, which is a small percent of the total regional riparian resource.

159-11) See general responses for minerals (p.5-13) and for Bodie (p.5-5).



THE DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL, INC. A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

To safeguard for wise and reverent use by this and succeeding gener ations those desert areas of unique scenic, scientific, historical, spiritual and recreational value and to educate by all appropriate means children and adults to a better understanding of the desert.

DATE: January 12, 1991 REPLY TO: none required

DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY PANEL - 9/89

SYLVIA DDOADDEN OOROTHY COWPER

PETE DANGERMOND MARY DEGECKER BETTY FORGEY MICHAEL FROME

AUGUST FRUGE WILBUR MAYHEW Professor of Zoology ART MONTANA Professor of Earth Sciences KAREN SAUSMAN DENINY SARTU France & Dublisher RICHARD SPOTTS 160-1 BORERT STERRING

FRANK VASEK LEONARD VINCENT STANLEY WELSH FRANK WHEAT HOWARD WILSHIRE Geologist

STATEMENT FOR THE DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, 1-17-91.

The Desert Protective Council (DPC), a thirty-year old national organization dedicated to the wise and reverent use of desert resources, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DRMP and EIS.

DPC comments will be confined to the Bodie and South Inyo Mountains in which the DPC has historic interests.

The BLM is to be commended for incorporating use of the computerized mapping in the planning and reviewing process. However, the DPC regrets that other modern concepts, such as biodiversity, biological corridors and landscape linkages, are not included in the Planning Guidelines (pg 25-26) and have been cited in a most perfunctory manner,

The DPC finds the DRMP and EIs to be incomplete, inadequate and internally conflicting in addition to a rather obvious bias toward development.

For example, the DPC finds the DRMP incomplete because maps and text do not identify geographical references by text or maps in detail (with the possible exception of the utility corridor maps) thus precluding meaningful review. Another example; where does the reviewer find definitions for such adjectives as; slight, low, moderate high, positive conclusions, significant improvement found specifically on pages 196-7 and throughout the text and charts.

The Plan itself is inadequate for, if the DRMP is

160-1

based on the 0-5 year Assumption (page 175), then long-term impacts and sustained-yield goals are not an intregal part of the Plan.

The reviewer is faced with a mix of data such as varying time frames, percentages and numbers. The Key Wildlife Habitat for Pizona, Queen Valley and Soldier Canyon (Table S-2, pages 12-13) is a prime example.

The DRMP appears to be internally conflicting. In many instances. the Alternative 4 does not comply with the relevant tenants of FLPMA, the Wilderness Act and others outlined in the DRMP.

Furthermore, the DRMP appears to provide only token acknowledgement of the goals and management plans of adjacent agencies such as the California Desert Conservation Area (BLM), the Mono Lake Basin Scenic Area (USFS), Bodie Historic State Park (Calif. Parks & Recreation,

160-2

DPC finds the DRMP to be inadequate and insensitive to a unique public resources owned by the State of California. Bodie should receive the highest protection possible under the FINAL RMP.

The current Bodie Hills Section should be pulled in its entirety and revised to include at a minimum;

- complete mineral withdrawal of all adjacent BLM lands. - Visual I standards, especially around Bodie Historic State Bark and the corridor between Mono Lake Basin National Scenic Area and Bodie.
- Additional conditions would include:
 - maximum habitat, wildlife and stream protection, including phase-out of grazing and some routes of travel. - delete "dispersed use" by OHVs, moutain bikes, vehicle-
 - oriented camping et al.
 - coordination with USFS, CP&R, USFWS, Mono County and nonprofit organizations such as the State Park Rangers Association, the Mono Lake Committee and Save Bodie!.

South Invo Mountains

Bodie Hills

160-3

The DRMP does not appear to integrate the management of the area with the California Desert Conservation Area Management Plans and/ or WSAs on the east side of the Inyos.

The cosmetic efforts along various trails and roadheads are commendable, but do not address the basic, long-term impacts of human uses. Turning any roadless area into multiple use after Congressional action release is thoughtless and does not reflect modern land use planning. There are countless alternatives to be considered. Full public review for use should be required; a roadless area is a unique and irreplaceable national resource (not BLM's "private" land!)

In support of the above statements, DPC offers the following:

Wilderness

DPC takes strong exception to BLM's decision to drop wilderness from further analysis, page 24. Furthermore, the wilderness release languageon the same page is completely unacceptable. The retention of 27,420 acres for the Southern Invo Mountains Wilderness Study Area is a minimal action. BLM is obligated to comply, not only with PL 94-579 but with all referenced acts including PL 88-577, the Migratory Bird, Antiquities, Endangered Spanier Class Air and others Roadless areas should be reviewed and evaluated for the highest

public benefit, not expoitation for the benefit of the BLM and private ownership.

Vehicular Use

BLM is opening a pandora's box with its emphasis on "dispersed 160-5

OHV use on large areas" (page 117). There is ample evidence that users are not going to stay on designated routes, trails, Byways and Backcountry Byways (page 30), particularly if emphsis is placed on semi-primitive motorized opportunities. Such action seems to be in conflict with Area Manager Guidelines, #12, page 27,

For many years, the public benefits of grazing on public lands bave been under study. The various studies of cattle vs sheep grazing do not identify sheep grazing as preferable to cattle grazing. In fact, testimony and observations around the California Poppy Preserve near Lancaster indicate the contrary. The conflicts between permittees and other users is well documented. It appears that grazing must be addressed as a single-purpose use. However. the BLM's lament (pages 200-202) that added costs projected under the DRHP will negatively impact 19 permittees, reveals the depth of its industry-based bias, a position unacceptable to the DPC.

160-7

160-8

160-6

160-4

Mining is a consumptive, non-renewable, non-sustainable use of public resources. It causes irreversible changes in land forms, stream and aquifer quantity and quality, wildlife babitat and recreational opportunities. Exploration activities present problems of a lesser degree. Compensation to the government is inadequate and usually does not cover administrative costs. Profits, and in most cases the refined resource, leave the BLM Resource Area. Short-term. local benefits are off set by long-term, cumulative impacts. Mining with its access limitations, appears, like grazing, to be a single-use industry, especially during the active years.

DPC supports Alternative 3 with recommendations for revisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

| Bodic Hills Management Plan should be revised to reflect its unique

160-B

stature and its relationship to the Mono Lake Basin National Scenic Area. There is a pressing and immediate need for national/state protection and enhancement including:

- mineral withdrawal of adjacent BLM lands.
- phase-out or buy-out of all grazing allotments. - phase out of dispersed vehicle use.
- achievement of Visual I standards for the entire Bodie Hills unit and extending across the Mono Lake Basin National Scenic Area,
- increased opportunities for non-consumptive uses such as tourism education. interpretation (including hands-on in some cases), wildlife enhancement and research

160-9

Southern Invo Mountains Management Plantauemented with additional wilderness acreage regardless of BLM's decision to drop wilderness from further analysis.

- Wilderness Release language should be replaced with bona fide opportunities for the public to review proposed uses prior to release.
- The BLM designate as "closed" to vehicle and mountain bike access/use all Make ACECe DPCs roadless areas (especially adjacent to the CBCA's western boundary) untill full review under NEPA indiactes the degree and/type of use.
- The DRMP document be revised to correct inadequate, incomplete and conflicting language.
- The BLM serious consider the options available to demonstrate modern planning principles in the Final Bishop Resource Area Management Plan and RIS.

160-10

The DPC requests the the FRMP be sent to the Executive Director at the address below.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary & Swedelius, Ex. Dir 4261 Fifth Avenue San Diego. CA 92103

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 160 (Desert Protective Council)

160-1) Your comments have been noted and considered in the final RMP. Most people found the maps to be one of the better aspects of the document. However, your concern about being able to find, on the maps, key areas identified in the text has been addressed in the final. Your concern about the excessive use of qualitative adjectives in the impact analysis has also been addressed.

The assumption (p. 175) merely states that if impacts are going to occur more than 5 years after implementation, the analysis will so state

Your comment that the draft RMP *appears to be internally conflicting* is too general for a specific response. We believe the preferred alternative complies with existing laws and regulations.

It is not the purpose of the RMP to detail the plans of adjacent agencies. However, we coordinated in considerable detail with those you mention and many others. See response 51-1.

- 160-2) See general responses for minerals (p.5-13) and for Bodie (p.5-5).
- 160-3) The wildemess studies that fall outside the scope of this RMP have been coordinated with the California Desert District to adjoining WSAs. We have additionally reviewed the Desert Plan to assure that our non-wildemess prescriptions are compatible with that Plan's direction
- 160-4) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process. We have considered all public lands not recommended for wilderness for the highest and best public use. Our prescriptions would comply with national laws, regulations and policy.

- 160-5) See general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 160-6) The decision to change the type of use from cattle to sheep has been removed from the final RMP. See the "grazing" section of Chapter 4 for revised impacts to livestock.
- 160-7) Your comment has been noted and documented.
- 160-8) Your comments have been considered. Alternative 3 contained much of what you suggest.
- 160-9) Please see responses 160-4 and 160-5.

The final RMP has been revised to correct inconsistencies, errors and discrepancies.

160-10) She has been added to the mailing list,

P. O. Box 606 Independence, (A 93526

January 15, 1991

Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management Bishop Resource Area 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop. CA 93514

Door Mike

161-1

161-3

161-4

161-5

161-6

Although I sent in a response to your Bishop Resource Plan, dated before Christmas, now that I have more time I have additional comments to make

Hy chief dejection to the plan, then and now, is the proposed power line corridor which verside pin trough deletic recover. To little is known down what is there and de so tittle intermetation plan. Why should another power line be chemicalled through Owers Yeally 21 seens to an least the topical role when the cools for the major former through the contribution of the plan of

Being a plant person, I find that netive plants are soilly neglected in the plan.

Although threelened and endangered plants are itsied in Appendix 6, there is a lock of Information as to where they occur or any specific information concerning them. Animal snacks are handled much hetter.

On page 37, are any of the ACEO's designed to consider special plant assemblages? There are repeated references to liabilitat improvement, but it can find nothing indicating that plants are valuated other than for praring uses or timber harvesting, or in some cases for wildliffe neads. There is nothing specific in reference to plant species. Any mention of threatend sentences makes to fourse, not florar.

On page 24 you mention National Conservation Area Proposals and say that they are not created under a management plan. I would like to know what areas might be considered and what steps in take in accommists this.

Livestock grazing is not to be considered here, and yet it affects plants more than any other use. Under what process can people be heard when decisions on grazing are made? It seems to me that we never hear never such decisions until after the fact.

Your statements on vegetation types or a good. Also, your statements describing the various management areas are well done. It is diffrient through to compare the effects of the four alternatives on index different management areas. None of them give adequate consideration for plant species and the special leaf habitats on which they may depend. I would feel good about. It if the plants were covered as well, as animal tife.

It is evident that the major destructive impacts are due to livestock use, mostly overgrazing and trampling. The effects of roads and vehicles are strongly adverse also. These

are uses that can be contolled by proper management. Strong remedial policies will be necessary as well as firm control measures. Many of the lesser impacts count up, too, and must be addressed in good management policies, I am pleased that you recognize the need for better control in your proposed places.

16.1-7 In pre-ready your discussions on white and scenic rivers, page 29 and in Appendix 2. You even menture sensitive plants at 1 it is Sough. Surely there must be springs, asker from those in river systems on ESR If and The bere springs may be exceptionally valuable centers of title in deser than great best rountry. I would like to see them listed and discussed, and whether BLH would make aw refer to per-petualle them.

On the whole i consider that this plan shows more sensitivity and a stronger sense of respecibilities custodiare of public lands than any in the past. Although invoid like many features of Alternativity 3 ones one real adaptisition and less OTM advity, I would be writing to support Alternative 4. It indicates to but of thought and sense a reasonable compromise. I would passisfer it great stop forward if Alternative 4 were a selected and implemented.

Yours sincerely,

Mary De Decker

Mary DeDecker

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 161 (Mary DeDecker)

161-1) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

The corridor study considered routes from the northernmost portion of the Inyo National Forest southeastward to the Las Vegas area. Pages 38-39 of the draft RMP identify areas which were considered but eliminated. The area you cite as the rlogical route" was eliminated for several reasons: A) much of the area is located outside the Bishop Resource Area and the Inyo National Forest; B) it includes a BLM wilderness study area which the Bureau has recommended for wilderness designation; and C) it includes military reservations (China Lake and Fort Invin) and Death Valley National Monument, designations which also preclude transmission line corridors.

Concerning the convergence of north-south lines at Little Lake, see the general response for the corridor study. It should also be noted that the amount of electricity currently being transmitted through the Owens Valley is only about 1/2 the amount being transmitted through the Las Vegas area. Consequently, the impact to system reliability caused by the adding lines to the north-south corridor would be significantly less than that caused by the addition of lines to the Las Vegas (Boulder/IPP) corridor.

161-2) Sensitive plant information can be found on pp.148, 151, and 153 of the draft plan, but was accidentally omitted from four management area descriptions. These data have been added to Chapter 3.

The management area alternatives do not have decisions for sensitive plants because these decisions were under the Area-Wide Alternatives. The Alternative 4 decision for sensitive species is on p.50, draft RIMP. The Standard Operating Procedures on p.269 specifically mention sensitive plant habitat under I.C.1. and sensitive plant habitat has been added to I.B.1 and I.B.3.

Eleven out of the sixteen sensitive plant species are currently being monitored. The populations of the remaining five species are currently being inventoried. Protection and enhancement of the populations will be generally handled within CRMPs, AMPs, and ACECs. Management of species outside of these types of management will be site-specific and will provide protection and/or enhancement of the habitat

- 161-3) The Keynot Peak ACEC in the South Inyo Management Area was designated solely for the protection of bristlecone pine stands in that area. In addition, the protection of the old growth white fir communities in the Coleville area was a primary consideration in the designation of the Slinkard ACEC. The Conway Summit ACEC in the Bridgeport Management Area emphasizes the importance of riparian plant communities. The existing Fish Slough ACEC recognizes the importance of wetland and sensitive plant assemblaces.
- 161-4) A National Conservation Area (NCA) designation could apply to any part or all of the Resource Area. One option would be to replace the existing watershed withdrawals with an NCA designation. National Conservation Areas are designated by Congress, not BLM. Designation of an NCA for this area will depend on public support for Congressional action and this process is outside of the scope of the RMP.
- 161-5) Please see the "Grazing" general response.

Public review is part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and is a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) created in 1999. The public review notification for an EIS is handled by publishing in the Federal Register and local papers, by contacting those individuals the agency considers to be affected parties and by notifying people on mailling lists maintained by each BLM Resource Area Office. The grazing EISs referenced in the document had public review prior to, during, and after publication of the grazing EIS final draft in the late 1970's and eafty 1980's.

- 161-6) Please see response 161-2.
- It is the BLM's intent to mitigate livestock impacts to sensitive plant habitat either through activity plans or site-specific projects.
- 161-7) Please refer to response 157-15 as part of the answer to your comment. Also, there are AMG and SOP statements, plus final plan decisions which address management of natural springs.
- 161-8) Your general support for Alternative 4 has been noted.

Sierra Pacific Power Company % Van Enogy People

January 14, 1991

Mr. Nike Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 98514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Sierra Pacific Power Company has reviewed the Druft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) dated September, 1990. Sierra Pacific Power Company finds the Druft RMP/EIS to be well written and comprehensive.

As you know, Sierra Pacific Power Company has been involved in the RBP/RELS since its inception. We have worked closely with the Bishop Resource Area, Inyo National Forest and other utilities in looking at potential utility leads to be a superior of the property of the

Enclosed please find our specific comments and suggestions covering the draft RMP/EIS. We have also included additional information concerning the justification of a utility corridor into the Ovens Valley from Newada.

Sierra Pacific Power Company greatly appreciates the opportunity to participate in the BLM land planning process. Please feel free to call me at (702) 680-302 if I can provide any additional information or assistance.

Carl Barnett
Land Use Specialist

Enc. CEB/dg CB:GC:2

6100 Neil Road P.O. Box 10100 Reno, Nevada 89520-0026 Telephone 702/689-4011

January 14, 1991

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT DRAFT BISHOP RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

SOLDIER CANYON PLANNING CORRIDOR

Sierra Pacific Power Company was pleased to note that the Braft Rishop Resource Nauagement Plan and Bwirnomental lapact Statement recommends the designation of the Soldier Canyon alternative as a transmission line planning corridor. We agree that the Soldier Canyon Planning Corridor is the least the Soldier Canyon Planning Corridor is the least identified some problems with the utility of a major transmission line. The major difficulty for utilization of this corridor is the location of vilderness study areas just east of the Deep Springs Valley. These vilderness study areas although listed as unsuitable by Ridgerrest Resource Area, effectively exclude the contraction of any transmission lines facilities east of Deep Springs the

Another problem associated with the Soldier Canyon alternative, is the proposed location of the northerly corridor boundary. We recomend that the northerly boundary be adjusted as shown on the attached set of drawings. The control of the state of the s

E241

162-1

162-2

162-3

Please refer to that section of the Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement on page 208 labeled Impact on prolonged human exposure to Electro-Magnetic Fields. Sierra Pacific Power Company generally agrees with this statement as written. However, we would like to make the following suggestion. In the fourth paragraph its states (Futhermore, research has shown that the effects of BWF from high voltage transmission lines is insignificant at distances in excess of 300 feet from centerline). Also in the fifth paragraph it states (Fowerlines located within 300 feet of a residence or hotel/casimo in the Montgomery Bas area could increase prolong human exposure to the compact of the state of

CB:GC:1

162-3 cont

The 300 foot limit appears arbitary and capricious. No state or federal environmental agency or public utility commission has set such a standard as significant or not. It is Sierra Pacific Power Company's opinion that any such limit should only be set in this case by the California Public Utility Commission.

The California Department of Health Services in conjunction with the California Public Utility Commission has reviewed all scientific information and have come to the following conclusion:

"with the scientific information available it is not possible to set a standard or say that any given level is safe or dangerous."

Attached for your information is a copy of Electric and Magnetic Field: Magnetic magnetic Fields and other common sources as published by the California Department of Health Services. We believe this document provides the most up to date information we have on DNF effects relative to California.

CB:CC:1

ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR UTILITY CORRIDORS BETWEEN NEVADA AND THE OWENS VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA

In addition to the information provided in Appendix 8 of the Braft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Pages 273-276) Sigrara Pacific Power Company would like to provide the following justification for the need to identify and designate utility corridors between Newada and the Owens Valley of California.

The Owens Valley is presently utilized for the transportation of electric energy into and out of Southern California. The Oregon System 1000KV DC transmission line, LABWP's 230KV transmission line and SCD's two 115KV transmission lines provide for this transportation as well as serving the electric energy needs of the residents of the Owens Valley. Consequently the infrastructure is in place for the transportation of electric energy to and from

There are many potential geothernal sites situated in Nevada as well as geothernal resources that have been identified in Galifornia just morth of Bishop. Many of these geothernal locations are presently being developed, or are under investigation, for the general ion of Lectucement of the star of the contraction of the star of the contraction of the contraction of the star of the contraction of Bishop are also being developed. Under investigation are potential geothernal sites in Nevada near Fallon, Reno, Boowase, Desert Peak, Pixtla Valley

In order to facilitate the development of these less environmentally sensitive sources of electric energy it is necessary that the most efficient and economical paths possible be found to transport this resultant electric energy to the growing load requirements in Southern California.

As outlined in Appendix 8 of the Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, only three potential utility corridors were identified between Nevada and the Owens Valley of California. This represents three potential utility corridors for an area stretching along the California-Meyada border between Topaz in the north and the south end of Owens Lake. When expanded outside of the study area it should be noted that this actually represents an area stretching from Topaz all the way south to the I-15 corridor near las Vegas. A distance of over 300 miles! For geothermal resource development to be economically competitive with other forms of electric generating fuels such as coal, nuclear, gas etc ..., the most direct routes from the source to the load must be identified. This need arises not just from the economics of constructing the shortest possible transmission line but also from additional electric line losses resulting from extended distances from generation sources to the loads. As stated above, if a potential electric transmission line route can not be identified between northern Nevada and the Owens Valley of California then a transmission line would have to be constructed from the geothermal site southerly along the Nevada border to the I-15 corridor near Las Vegas. This could result in an additional transmission line distance of over 200 miles.

CB:GC:1

162-4

162-4 cont. An additional transmission line distance of this amount could severely hamper if not prohibit the development of known geothermal resources in Nevada and California.

It should also be noted that there is a need for energy interties between various energy companies in order to provide the most efficient and economical use of existing electric energy resources. Such interties are desired between the existing electric energy resources. Such interties provide for the diversity exchange of energy depending upon differences of peak loading periods between companies. The efficient use and interchange of electric energy between Wesda, Morthern California and Southern California for the construction of future generation plants. Any future transmission lines from the construction of future generation plants. Any future transmission lines from Kavada into Southern California will facilitate this interchange of electricity.

When the development of geothermal-electric generation resources are coupled together with the desire for intracompany transmission line interties and the need to provide a reliable, adequate energy supply to the growing demands of Southern California the need to identify and designate a utility corridor between Nevada and the Ovens Valley of California becomes apparent.

CB:GC:1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 162 (Sierra Pacific Power Company)

- 162-1) Concerning wilderness study areas outside the Bishop Resource Area and Invo National Forest, see response 100-70 and the Impacts to Adjacent Jurisdictional Areas section of the general response for the corridor study.
- 162-2) The northern boundary of the Soldier Canyon Alternative Corridor Area will be adjusted in the final RMP to provide proponents and federal agencies with additional opportunities to consider alternative routings.
- 162-3) See the EMF section of the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 162-4) Thank you for providing this additional information. It has been considered in the decision-making analysis.

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your R.M.P I have some specific comments on the planning areas

WALKER/COLEVILLE

163-1 Support the designation of the Slinkard Valley ACEC.

GRANTE MT/

163-2 pg. 69 Enhancement of semi-primitive developed facilities, what does that mean, what kind of facilities. I feel the area should remain as is without

any rec. development - Is 25 acres of Leffrey Pire left for Cavity nesting, is wiftenent acreage, in the entire planning area. What is the Euro's policy in other areas of Leff growth, what's the policy

about snaas

- I overwhelmingly, support ocquisition of land's in the Adobe / Blay Lake areas and enhancement of waterbul habitat, but growing must be profiled in these greas. I also support efforts to femae son has in these areas

163-4

pg 70 - Enhancement of migratory deer habitat trivialities selective removal of decadent vegetation; what constitutes decadent vegetation and by what means will it be removed

163-5

I support your concept of D.P.C.S. but how will they conflict with your multiple use, mardate Where you identify DFC's, all other uses must be examined on how they = impact the D.P.C Is the Dipic amcept. long term, can it be over-turned by the location of a mining claim? How sold is it What levels of grazing will occur in DAC'S. Native species should get preference in these areas

BENTON

163-6

pa 75 - Enhance semi primitive recreation dispersion. I might recommend securing easements from ranchers for better access to the canyon mouths of the While Mts, other than that there should be no enhancement along the Whites, Generally I don't favor any more barking lots or and more accomedation of the automobile in this area. No new roads in the South Tablelands.

I do not Pavor any further interpretation of the Petroglyph Loop. Everytning should be kept as is bind roads to significant, cultural sites in the S. Tablelands closed

BENTON

The disposal of 5382 acres 163-7 This is an inadequate statement without iany further information on the impacts of these disposals. What impacts will resultant growth of have on water resources, wildlife, and airquality. Any of these land disposals should be accompanied by it's aun separate E.I.R. What % of the disposal goes to

163-8

3-2

- vague about how recreation is to ho enhanced, does that mean new roads we've already got too many of thom along the Whites

agriculture and residential growth, The idea of tying these disposals to agrisition of key

+ Please re-instate the acquisition of 163-9 | Fish Slough in alternative #4. This area Is a gent that's needs more protection.

OWENS VALLEY

habitat is seductive, though!

- Leave Alabama Hills as is, no ACEC designation, leave roads sandy

143-10 north of Independence, What are the Impacts of this urban expansion on Fart Independence

163-11 - What is yearlong protection of the Alabama. Hills

163-12

- Scasanal protection of the Round Valley, Manache, and Gaddale winter deer ranges - What protections or restrictions are in effect during the summer to make sure uses don't hongact on the winter ranges

-No further recreamonal developement in the Imp's

- Danit acquire Swanson unless you plan to keep somebody as a caretaker, because. the place will get boiled

163-13

- I strangly oppose your preferred alternative of Soldier Canan as a Transmission corridor, through Deep Springs Valley, the valley has outstanding wildlife, and headogical and aetholetic values. I think the economite arguments for the convictor are inadequate and new comdos should be noted thru Las Vegos. I also feel a suparate EIR should be bre-pared for the cornidor it you decide to push forward with it.

I strongly oppose any mining activity on BILIMU binds above the town of Bodie and hope you will deny Galactic Mining
the necessary permits of a heap leach mine. To soul that this project is incompatible with one of Coinformals most outstansing Cultural treasures and prime visitor attractions is an understatement. Granting Galautic d deasion to go forward will set a dangerous precedent for other places like Badie.

163-15

- Looking over the R.M.P. I couldn't help but think, hurst a great wish list. (with your limited budget and personnel haw Church of this will ever ome true. What is the reality factor of the plan. And what audelines will the you use to prioritize what actions get done first. I hope you will give wildlife, plant communities, and the restoration of native species and riparian habits top donsideration, in this impeccable slice of Creation we live in. I was commend the breath breadth of your thinking and vision, on things that need to be done here. and thank you for the effort

5-504

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 163 (Richard Potashin)

- 163-1) Your comments of support or disagreement have been noted. Responses to specific questions are addressed below.
- 163-2) The overall intent in the Granite Mountain Management Area is to enhance the semi-primitive recreation opportunities with minimal recreational developments. This means maintaining the area's semi-primitive physical settings. Any recreational developments would most likely consist of low-profile interpretive or educational sioning.
- 163-3) The 25 acres of Jeffrey pine to meet the DPC goal is 100% of the available vegetation type in the management area. The other management areas which contain Jeffrey pine are Long Valley and Coleville (as part of the old growth vegetation type). In those two locations 75% and 100%, respectively, of the vegetation type is to be managed for DPC goals.

Our determinations for snag management are written into the DPC descriptions for Jeffrey pine in the Granite Mountain and Long Valley management areas, the bristlecone/limber pine in South Inyo management area, the old growth in Coleville management area, and the aspen grove and pinyon-juniper vecetation types.

- 163-4) This decision concerns a large area in the vicinity of Trench Canyon containing a monotypic stand of sagebrush with very little or no understory vegetation. The means of removal would very likely be a controlled burn. Herbicides would not be used.
- 163-5) Please refer to the DPC general statement (p.5-10).
- 163-6) At the present time, we believe there is ample access to the canyons. As we discover access restrictions, we can recommend easement acquisitions in activity plans for the area.
- 163-7) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

- 163-8) Any new routes would be addressed in upcoming activity plans unless the RMP specifically prescribes otherwise, as in the south Tableland area. Please see general response to OHV management (p.5-8).
- 163-9) The Fish Slough acquisition is not included in the final plan because we are making progress in protecting this area through cooperation with LADWP, the Audubon Society, CDF&G and other agencies. We do not feel that acquisition is necessary at this time.
- 163-10) See general response for acquisitions and disposals.
- 163-11) The final RMP has been clarified to specifically identify which resources of the Alabama Hills will be protected under yearlong protection.
- 163-12) Other decisions for the Owens Valley management area which affect winter range for those deer herds concern providing adequate habitat condition to meet CDF&G herd population objectives and DPC goals for the sagebrush/bitterbrush type.
- 163-13) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).

The economic considerations under the No Action, No East-West Corridor Alternative (in the impacts section of the draft RIMP) are based upon average construction cost estimates, anticipated future generation sources in Nevada, and cost estimates of general mitigation measures. More specific analyses will be made part of the EIS required of any proposed project within the Soldier Carryon area. Furthermore, economics was not a primary consideration used to support the need for a new east-west corridor. Rather, concerns with system reliability, rapidly increasing restrictions in the Las Vegas area, and increasing land use designations which preclude transmission corridors were identified in the need analysis as the primary arguments.

163-14) We have not yet received a plan of operations from any mining paramy for mining in the Bodie Bowl area. BLM has received and approved exploration drilling programs. If an open-pit heap leaching project is proposed for the Bodie Bowl area, an EIS will be prepared to see if it meets the guidelines set forth in the RMP. If these guidelines cannot be met, the project will be denied.

Impacts from heap leaching could be mitigated, for example, by requiring that the leach pads be constructed outside the view shed of the Bodie Bowl. BLM has no authority to dictate mining methods to an operator, but can require reasonable mitigation programs for the mining method which the operator chooses to use.

The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5).

163-15) Thank you for your kind remarks. See response 135-3 regarding priorities.

United States Forest Department of Service

Agriculture

Toiyabe National Forest Bridgeport Ranger District

P.O. Box 595 Bridgeport, Ca. 93517 (619) 932-7070

Reply to: 1500

Date: January 14, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

ear Mike:

The Bridgeport Ranger District, Tolyabe National Forest, has reviewed the Draft Blabop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. We appreciate your consideration of the comments from our letter of April 25; 1990. Based on our review of the Draft, it appears we need to clarify several items raised in our original correspondence and we also would like to offer consideration.

Chapter 1

Planning Cuidelines, Area Manager's Cuidelines, Page 27, #17

164-1

As attaid on page 2 of our April 25 letter, we believe it would be prudent to at least consider the transfer of BJM public lands in the CR2 to the Mail consideration of the CR2 to the C

Programs/Processes, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Page 29

164-2

The Tolyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (IBMF) did not recommend Virginia Creek, Creen Creek, or Rough Creek for Wild and Scenic River study. It proposed for study those rivers identified by the Beritage Conservation Service. We have no plans to study the Respective portions of these three creeks on Mational Porest System

Chapter 2

Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study, Page 38

164-3

In our April 25 letter, we commented that the BLM should <u>consider</u> disposal of certain public lands in the vicinity of Bridgeport and Antelope Valley for private development where no significant

164-3 cont. resource conflicts exist. We recommended a disposal option that would have allowed acquisition of other lands with more sensitive resource values by the BIM or Forest Service in exchange for these parcels. This consideration seemed consistent with our respective sency missions and local community needs.

Speakow, it appears this comment was construed to mean we were interested in disposing of some of the area for private development." This inference was then used to rationalise the reason for not transferring lands in the Goldwills Banagasent Area to the Forest Service. It as ideally object that the property of the service is a state of the service of the service of the service which is the service of the se

If there is good existing rationale for not considering the transfer of BLH public lands to the National Forest System, then such reasoning should be objectively stated in this section and the current paragraph removed or modified.

I and my staff would be happy to discuss this issue further to assure a common understanding of its scope and purpose.

Alternative 1. Support Needs, Page 40

164-4

In addition to the reference of developing an OHV designation and implementation plan, it might be worth noting the coordinated development of this plan with the Forest Service. This comment is applicable to all other Alternative descriptions as well.

Alternative 3, Decisions, Page 46

164-5

Similar to the direction proposed for sage grouse leks, consideration should be given to identifying specific DPC goals and bitterbrush utilization standards for other critical habitat areas such as sule deer range. This comment is applicable to other Alternative descriptions as well.

Alternative 4, Decisions, Page 50

164-6

In order to assure common undertanding of key terms and phrases it may be wise to be more specific on what 'protection' smeans as it relates to sensitive plants and wildlife habitats, and to define artificial soil alteration rating and bank protection ratings in the glossary. This comment is applicable to other Alternative descriptions as well.

Alternatives for Individual Management Areas and Rationales for Preferred Alternative, Coleville MA-Alt 1, Decisions, Page 54

164-7

The TES habitat implications relative to controlling erosion and improving the ecological condition in Slinkard and Antelope Valleys may be highlighted by replacing the word trout with Lahontan

| cutthroat trout. This comment is also applicable to the other cont. | Alternatives for the Coleville MA.

Coleville MA-Alt 4 Decisions, Page 56

Consider defining what is meant by "yearlong protection" of mule deer winter range east of Eastside Lane? This comment is also spolicable to Coleville MA-Alt 3.

22

Recommend that land for the Walker Landfill and the Toiyabe Indian Health Clinic be disposed of to the appropriate agency through R&FP patent.

Gonsider defining what is meant by protective measures or at least explaining the intent of protective measures to assure the rare stems will and other structures at the historic Colden Gate Mine are structure, we forced by comparation winter and occurancy transacs.

Decisions, Page 57

The FS and CDFC allow grazing in Slinkard Valley. What is the basis for prohibiting livestock grazing on the BLM's Slinkard Valley Allotment and how will this prohibition affect management of adjacent non-BLM allotments? This comment is also applicable to Coleville Ma-Alt 1 and 3.

Support Needs, Page 57

164-12

ILU-R

This section should address coordination with FS and CDFC in Slinkard Valley with respect to grazing and other resource management objectives, particularly restoration of Lahontan cutthroat trout. This comment is also applicable to Coleville MA-Ail I and 3.

Bridgeport Valley MA-Alt 4, Support Needs, Page 61

164-13

Our April 25 letter identified several recommendations for improving recreation opportunities at Conway Summit and Travertine Motor Springs. The Draft indicates specific activity plans will be developed for these two sites. Are these activity plans the means by which such input will be considered.

Bodie Hills MA-Alt 3 and 4, Decisions, Pages 63, 65

164-14

Based on the impacts analysis on page 201 for livestock, what is the difference between "requiring" conversion to sheep in Alternative 3 versus "encouraging" in Alternative 47 What is the rationale for conversion to sheep on the identified allotments? It seems this negates 2 vears of effort on the Bodie Hills CRM.

Support Needs, Pages 64, 66

164-15

. | What about coordination with FS on conversion to sheep in jointly managed allotments?

Chapter 3

Affected Environment, Vegetation, Old Crowth Coniferous Forest,

To our knowledge, there is no Douglas fir in the Restern Sierra Also, DPC for old growth red fir is described in Appendix 1 but not

Chapter 4

Impacts

This section addresses itself entirely to environmental impacts? Was any consideration given for analyzing and addressing the economic and social impacts associated with the Alternatives and proposed direction?

Impacts, Impacts on Riparian and Fisheries Habitat, Page 195

What are the differences in impacts to riparian and fisheries habitat with the proposed conversion from cattle to sheep in the Bodie Hills allotments under Bodie Hills MA Alts 3 and 47

As a follow up to the preceding, what are the social and economic impacts associated with the proposed conversion from cattle to sheep in the Bodie Hills allotments under Bodie Hills MA Alts 3 and 47

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Cliff Shaw at this office

Sincerely.

RANDALL SWICK

District Ranger

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 164 (Tolvabe National Forest, Bridgeport RD)

- 164-1) A major interchange of Forest Service and BLM lands is beyond the scope of this plan. A few years ago, a major interchange involving BLM and Forest Service land throughout the west was considered and rejected. If such a study is undertaken in the future, the entire range of logical options should be considered. including transfers of Forest Service land in the Bodie Hills to BLM
- 164-2) Your comments regarding opposition to eligibility of the candidate creeks on the National Forest lands have been noted and will be incorporated in the upcoming suitability studies. We will keep your office informed about the status of our wild and scenic river review program. Also note that Mill Creek has been reevaluated in the final RMP and determined eligible for study. It has been classified as wild
- 164-3) See response 164-1. The rationale statement has been deleted.
- 164-4) We have modified the support needs in Chapter 2 in the final RMP to reflect coordination with the Forest Service and other agencies.
- 164-5) Please refer to the revised area-wide Alternative 4 decision on livestock bitterbrush use limit in deer migration corridor and winter range areas. Also, note the vegetation structure and cover characteristics written into big sagebrush/bitterbrush DPCs for mule deer habitat.
- 164-6,8) Yearlong and seasonal protection are defined in the glossary. Definitions of the streambank artificial soil alteration rating and the vegetative bank protection rating have also been included.

200

- 164-7) Your suggested wording change has been included in the final.
- 164-9) These disposals are included in the RMP.
- 164-10) Your comment has been considered,

- 164-11) The removal of livestock grazing in Slinkard Valley was for enhancing wildlife habitat, i.e. deer wirther range and Lahontan cutthroat trout. The removal would force a cattile operator and a sheep operator to seek additional grazing or changes in season of use on Forest Service range, CP-8G range or private range, Livestock grazing on adjacent unfenced ranges would be subject to trespass if drift occurred on unallocated BLM public land. This decision has been changed. The Dry Canyon and Slinkard Valley allotments will be removed from grazing only when alternative ranges are found. See Chapter 4, final RMP.
- 164-12) Please refer to area-wide Support Needs for coordination between the Tolyabe National Forest and the Bureau on administration of shared grazing allotments. Support Needs have been added to coordinate with CDF&G and Tolyabe N.F. on projects of mutual concern. As an example, refer to response 154-66.
- 164-13) Yes. Site-specific measures to accomplish the RMP's prescriptions will be addressed in the area activity plan.
- 164-14) Please see response 78-23.
- 164-15) This decision was removed from the final RMP.
- 164-16) Thank you. This is noted in the errata sheet.
- 164-17) The impacts section also addresses economic impacts. No analysis of social impacts was done.
- 164-18,19) The decision to encourage conversion from cattle to sheep use has been removed from the final RMP.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Mr. Michael A. Ferguson Area Manager

Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We have reviewed this document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Our detailed comments on the DEIS are enclosed.

The DEIS identifies and analyses four alternatives for managing the 750,000-darce Bishop Resource Management Ares (RWA) for the next 10-20 years. These alternatives are: Alternative 1, no action/continuation of present management; Alternative 1, no action/continuation of present management; Alternative 2, custodial/sinimal management; Alternative 3, natural resources chancement; and Alternative 8. The Management of the Man

166-1

We have classified this DEIS as "MC-2, Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information." Please see the enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions and Follow-up Action." The DEIS is rated "MC" because of anticipated adverse impacts to water quality fisheries, riperian "2" because it lacks sufficient information on water quality, air quality, mining and comutative impacts.

We recommend selection of Alternative 3 because it would provide the greatest protection to environmental resources. However, we recommend that this alternative be modified to provide additional protective features, including further emphasis on restoring aquatic and riparian areas, purchase of private lands adjacent to the streams/created seignated on the streams/created and the streams areas, and prohibition of off-highway vehicle use in sensitive areas such as the Pish Slough Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

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- 2 -

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send three copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Machington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 744-1566, or have your staff contact Ruth Pratt at (415) 744-1570.

Sincerely yours,

Deanne M. Wieman Deanna Wieman, Director Office of Federal Activities

Enclosures

cc: Lahonton RWQCB, South Lake Tahoe, CA Great Basin Unified APCD, Bishop, CA CDFG, Div. of Env. Serv., Sacramento, CA Field Sup., FWS, Sacramento, CA EPA Comments - Jenuery 1991 Bishop Resource Hensgement Plan/DEIS BLM, Mone and Inve Counties. CA

General Comments

| EPA has serious concerns about the adverse impacts to water quality, instream beneficial uses such as fisheries, riparian habitat and biodiversity, which would occur with proposed management activities. These activities include livestock grazing, mineral and energy development, land development on disposed lands, transmission line construction, and off-highway vehicle

Table 2-2, Impacts of Alternatives by Management Area (DEIS, pages 92-113) contains a comparison of impacts of each alternative for the nine management areas. Based on this comparison, the alternatives, from the least to most environmentally damaging, are Alternatives 3, 4, 1 and 2. Implementation of Alternatives 1 and 2 would ensure continued degradation of resources of concern to EPA, and should be deleted from further consideration. Implementation of Alternative 4 (preferred by BLM) represents an improvement over present management conditions. We support the improved features of Alternative 4 such as use of the Desired Plant Community (DPC) vegetative management technique to achieve improved biodiversity; management actions which would increase populations of trout and the wildlife indicator species sage grouse, and improve riparian/aquatic habitat in some management areas; classification of ten streams/creeks as eligible for Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) status; and establishment of an environmental education center. However, we do not believe that this alternative goes far enough to protect environmental resources.

The DEIS (page 38) states that each alternative under consideration represents a realistic and achievable mix of management actions and land use allocations. Implementation of Alternative 3 would clearly help to achieve a higher degree of protection/ enhancement of environmental resources. Under Alternatives 3 and 4, 30,000 and 1,900 acres, respectively, within the RMA are proposed to be withdrawn from mining activities. Further, under Alternative 3, approximately 42,000 acres would be acquired to protect wildlife habitat and other resources. Under Alternative 4, approximately 19,000 acres would be acquired for these purposes; however, approximately 9,000 acres would be sold for agricultural and residential purposes. Also, ten Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) would be designated under Alternative 3, whereas Alternative 4 would only designate seven. We recommend selection of Alternative 3, but with the following additional protective features: emphasize protection of all streams and riparian areas from adverse grazing and mining impacts; acquire private lands along the proposed Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) corridors; designate additional wilderness areas; and prohibit off-highway vehicle use in sensitive areas such as Fish Slough.

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EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Hanagement Plan/DEIS

Water Ouality

166-4

166-5

166-6

166-3 The discussion of water quality impacts contained on page 176 of the DEIS should be expanded, based on the following information.

Bance Menagement - The DEIS (page 143) states that many streams/riparian somes, springs and wetlands are in unsatisfactory condition due to heavy livestock grazing and trampling. Appropriate the state of the state

The DRIS (page 175) incorporates the Benton-Ovens Valley and Bodie-Coleville Crazing RISs (1981 and 1983) by reference. However, in light of the age of these documents and the significant adverse impacts associated with grazing in the RMA, we recommend that the FEIS discuss grazing management practices in more detail. The FEIS should discuss the current condition of rangeland within the RMA, specific standards and severe impacts and the second of the second control of the second

Antideridation_Policy - The DEIS (nage 129) describes the water quality of the BMA as "generally good." Pursuant to the Federal Antidegradation Policy (40 CFR 131.12), existing instreas water uses and water quality necessary to protect the existing uses as the property of the property

Wild and Scenic Rivers - We support the classification of the ten identified streams/creeks as eligible for WESR designation within RMA. We further recommend that BLM acquire privately-owned parcels adjacent to these stream corridors to further enhance their values.

EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Honogement PlanyDEIS BLM, Hono and Inyo Counties, CA

chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (Section 101(a)). In California, programs to implement the CWA have been delegated to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Ouality Control Boards (RWQCB) under Section 208, Water Quality Management Planning. and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program. Furthermore, pursuant to Section 1283(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, BLM is required to cooperate with EPA and the appropriate State water pollution control agencies for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing the pollution of waters in these rivers. The FEIS should discuss the proposed designations' effect on compliance with state water quality management plans and the Great Basin Plan, including EPA-approved water quality standards and designated beneficial uses. We believe that the proposed W&SR designations have the potential to complement Antidegradation goals. This should be viewed as a potential benefit in terms of protection of existing water quality and maintenance of beneficial

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is designed to restore and maintain the

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - The DEIS (Dage 176) states that BMPs will he developed for existing and potential water quality problems. The FEIS should specify what BMPs and non-point source pollution measures will be utilized to assure water quality protection as well as how and when these measures will emplemented and monitored. The FEIS should also describe how suffer, Standards and Guidelines and other seasures are sufficiently as the state of the

Riparian Habitat

uses.

144.7

166-8

IEA also supports the acquisition of riparian seadow, and proposed riparian/aquatic habitat improvements anticipated under Alternative 3. However, we are very concerned by the statement (DEIS, page 195) that even under this alternative, riparian resources we water diversion for power generation and export. The DEIS states that even under Alternative 3, there would only be a "slight positive impact on existing riparian and fisheries" and the states that even under Alternative 3, there would only be a saint to conditions in the region, the state habitat conditions in the region, the state conditions in the region of the state back and wildlife diversity, and this type of wetland habitat has been significantly reduced in California. Therefore, we believe that BLM must go beyond its general guidelines to maintain, restore and improve riparian areas "to the octent practical." (DEIS, page

.)

EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Hanagement Plan/DEIS BIM Horn and Iman Counting CA

166-9

In view of continued degradation of this important resource in the RMA, we recommend that BMM institute management guidelines which will assure that all riparian zones within the RMA are protected. The FRIS should discuss what riparian standards and protected in the RMA are protected in the RMA

Energy and Minerals

166-10

The PETS should include more specific information on the impacts of mining in the PBA in the past and foreseeable future (i.e., the 10-20 period during which this RPM applies). It should specify for the entire PBA: mineral materials (including sand and gravel); mining activities; number of cases with each actually an expect of the mineral material or activity. The PETS should also promineral material or activity. The PETS should also promineration for each ACEC, special management area, or wetlend/riparian area in the RBM. Further, we recommend that the FETS evaluate the impacts of mining in these areas and discuss any mitigation/componention measures that are necessary to protect water gradually soil resources, weekering and wildlife. Also it administration development, operation, and reclamation of mining areas.

Herbicide/Pesticide Use

166-11

The DEIS (page 25) states that herbicide use will be consistent with the California Vegetative Management PEIS and Record of the Management PEIS appeal of the Management PEIS appeal of the Management PEIS appeal of the Management (DEIS, page 67). We also recommend that the FEIS specify that any pesticide (as defined under Section 2(u) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide

166-12.

- registered with the EPA and the State of California;
- (2) specifically registered for the proposed use;
- (3) used only in accordance with requirements for the safe mixing, storing, loading and disposal of such poisons;
- (4) marked with a current label;

EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Henagement Plan/0615 BLM, Mono and Joyo Counties, CA

166-12

(5) used in accordance with its label and all Federal, State and local laws and regulations; and

(6) applied so that worker safety is ensured.

Two recent directives implemented by EPA which may affect BIM management activities are:

- (1) Protection of Pederally-listed endangered species The DEI refers to endangered, threatened and candidate species in the EMA. Therefore, you should be proved the upcoming implementation of ERA's Endangered species are of the upcoming implementation of ERA's Endangered species are of the upcoming implementation of the upcoming provided that the provided species with the upcoming the upcoming peaticide labeling, will refer users to upon the upcoming that users in all counties comply with use limitations in the bulletin for the county in which they intend to use the pesticide; and
- (2) Worker Protection Standards Only Yuly 8, 1988 EDN issued a Notice of Proposed Releashing in the Rederal Regulations, which proposed revisions to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 170, proposed revisions to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 170, proposed revisions to 40 Code of Federal Regulations in fields made of the Proposed Protection Standard Federal Regulations in fields treated with pesticides, but workers in operations in fields made greenhouses and workers who handle (six, load and apply) pearly protective equipment and re-entry representation of the Proposal would expand contain the Protective equipment and re-entry representations for decontamination, emergency medical duties, truth provisions for decontamination.

Air Quality

166-13

We recommend that the discussion of air quality impacts contained on page 176 of the DEIS be expanded.

The DEIS (page 67) identifies activities (e.g., prescribed burning) which could adversely affect if unality. It recommend that the FISI identify the California and Federal Class or needing air quality standards. We also recommend outlined to the Country of the

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EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Management Plan/DE1S BLM. Mono and Invo Counties. CA

(1) where the prescribed burns would be located, including elevation and proximity to sensitive areas such as roads and cont.

- (2) how many acres would be burned at a time;
- (3) what active measures, if any, would be taken to reduce emissions from prescribed burning (e.g., backing fires, evaluation of moisture content, and mop-up procedures to minimize smoldering);
- (4) the time(s) of year when prescribed burning is anticipated (we recommend that any burning occur only under favorable meteorological conditions required for smoke dispersion and attainment of air quality standards); and

(5) permit conditions likely to be required by the GBAPCD for prescribed burning.

Wilderness

166-15

The DEIS (page 24) states that only the 27,240-acre portion of the property of

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

The DRIS (page 117) states that off-highway vehicle (GNY) use opportunities are available throughout the RMA, and vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails. EFA strongly recommends the property of the strongly recommends to the strongly recommends the strongly recommend that GNY restrictions be sonitored for compliance. The use of GNYP, especially in welland/riparian areas, can be a significant nonpoint source of poliution. While listtance is a significant nonpoint source of poliution. While listtance is the strongly of the strongly of the strongly beneficial impact on water quality and blodiversity, we question whether such a restriction could be enforced, given the extensive areas that BLM manages. A better alternative, in terms of nonribation areas, and areas of high encomponential to GNYP. EPA Comments - January 1991 Bishop Resource Hanagement Plan/DEIS

Cumulative Impacts

The DETS identifies reasonably foreseeable projects within the RMA, including: (1) construction of the proposed transmission line through Soldier Canyon to provide electricity to the City of Los Angeles; (2) a geothermal electric power generating project; and (3) land development for agricultural and residential uses

The PEIS should include more detailed discussion of the cumulative impacts to natural resources, including water quality/fisheries and wetland/riparian habitat which would result with construction of these anticipated future projects.

We assume that a separate DRTS will be prepared to analyze the 166-17 impacts associated with the proposed transmission line construction project. This should be clarified in the FEIS. The information contained in the DEIS does not sufficiently disclose all environmental impacts. The DEIS (page 169) states that the Soldier Canvon area is characterized by the lack of perennial streams. However, the FEIS should specify whether waters of the United States, including wetlands, riparian areas, and other special aquatic sites, would be adversely affected with construction of this project or any other transmission line alternative. The FEIS should also specify whether U.S. waters would be affected by other phases of the proposed transmission line construction project. Similarly, air quality impacts associated with construction of transmission lines (e.g., PM10 and NO,) should be identified.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The DEIS (page 209) states that construction of the proposed transmission line through Solider Cangon untuil result in most case that the proposed traility to the Federally-listed endangered baid eagle because of the proposed traility to the Federally-listed endangered baid eagle because of the proposed traility would violate the Endangered Species Act of 1971, as assended. The FEIS should explain how and if these significant adverse impacts to an endangered species could be

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1

SUMMARY OF RATING DEFINITIONS AND POLICE-UP ACTION*

Environmental Impact of the Action

ID-Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring

substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC-Environmental Concerns

The BPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Ornective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. ENA would like to work with the lead approp to reduce these impacts.

EO-Environmental Objections

The ERA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Oursective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead amony to reduce these impacts.

EU--Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The SER review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality, public health or welfare. SER intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Gouncil or Devironmental Quality (TGD).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1-Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying lanquage or information.

Category 2-Insufficient Information

The draft BIS does not contain sufficient information for ERN to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the ERN reviewer has identified now reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of_salternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3--Inadequate

ERA does not bollowe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EN reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in rother to reduce the potentially significant environment EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental experience of the state of the second of the se

*Pross EPA Manual 1640, "Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment." RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 166 (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

- 166-1) Your comment has been noted and considered.
- 166-2) Your concerns for impacts resulting from implementation of Alternative 4 of the draft RMP were considered during development of the proposed action. Responses to specific comments and brief descriptions of changes incorporated into the final RMP to address your concerns are presented below.
- 166-3) The discussion of water quality impacts presented in the draft has been expanded in the final.
- 166-4) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11). Current ecological condition is shown in Table 3-7 of the final RMP.

Please see the "Monitoring" section in Chapter 1 of the final RMP. An area-wide monitoring support need has been added to Chapter 2.

Resource decisions in the RMP will be carried out through activity plans (Page 24-25, draft RMP) and are identified under support needs for each Management Area. In regard to livestock grazing, these activity plans are Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRIMP) and Allotment Management Plans (AMP). The resource decisions in the RMP guide the development and revision of CRIMPs and AMPs. Refer to the SOP section of the final RMP under Soil, Water, and Air for the requirements to assure protection of water quality.

166-5) A comprehensive inventory of existing water quality and beneficial uses is not available for all waters in the resource area. We have included a Standard Operating Procedure that addresses compliance with the Federal Antidegradation Policy to ensure protection and maintenance of existing water quality or beneficial uses.

- 166-6,7) Potential acquisitions, water pollution, and potential resource conflicts will be addressed in the upcoming studies following completion of this RMP.
- 166-8) The discussion of water quality impacts was expanded to include information on how Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be developed, implemented and monitored. This expanded section also describes how BMPs, SOPs and other measures will be used to ensure compliance with the Federal Antidegradation Policy.
- 166-9) The BLM manages only a small fraction of the total riparian resource in the Eastern Sierra region. The statement that "riparian resources would continue to be impacted by livestock grazing and water diversion and export" refers to region-wide impacts. Though significant improvements were projected for riparian areas on Bureau lands as the result of implementation of either alternative 3 or 4, this would have only a slight positive impact on region-wide riparian and fisheries habitat conditions. This is clarified in the final.

The proposed action goes far beyond the Area Manager's Guideline that to the extent practical riparian areas will be maintained, restored and improved. A total of 483 acres of riparian habitat are targeted for desired plant community management. This is 76% of the riparian habitat in the resource area. There are also decisions to provide (1) yearlong protection for all riparian areas, (2) maintenance of 95% of the mean monthly flow in all area streams and springs, (3) no net loss of riparian and wetland habitats, and (4) opportunities for the restoration of degraded riparian and aquatic systems. In addition, several SOPs provide further guidance for protection and improvement of riparian resources.

The resource area already has a riparian monitoring program in place (see responses 135-59 and 135-65).

166-10) Much of the information on past and anticipated use is contained within the "Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario" for minerals in Chapter 4 of the final RMP. Without knowing what, if any, mineral development plans are forthcorning, we cannot predict what development and reclamation guidelines and restrictions would be best. These management decisions are highly site-specific. Each Plan of Operation received will require exhaustive environmental impact analyses, including oublic input.

- 166-11) The reference to chemical control of sagebrush was in Alternative 1 and is not a proposed action. If herbicide use is planned at any time, the type would be determined at the activity plan level and would conform to the California Vegetative Management FEIS and all applicable federal, state, and county standards and policies.
- 166-12) Your recommendations on pesticide use are included under Standard Operating Procedures in the final RMP.
- 166-13) We have discussed air quality with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District and have expanded the RMP discussion of air quality. The prescribed burning was not carried forward to the preferred alternative. If prescribed burning is done, a burn plan containing the information you specify will be submitted to the Air Pollution Control District beforehand. As discussed with the Air Pollution Control District, environmental analyses will be conducted on activities which may have a significant adverse effect on air quality. Mitigation measures will be implemented to assure attainment and maintenance of air quality standards.
- 166-14) Please see Chapter 1, Wildemess Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- 166-15) Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 166-16) Your comment has been noted and considered.

- 166-17) The corridor decision has been changed: please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16). The draft RMP states, on pp.90-91, that an EIS would be required for any proposed transmission line in the Soldier Canvon area. Only through such an EIS can a determination be made regarding potential impacts to wetlands, riparian areas, and special aquatic sites. The Soldier Canyon area is known to contain only a few. small areas of water oriented habitats; therefore, it is anticipated that the impacts to that type of resource could probably be mitigated via avoidance. The EIS would identify specific impacts to all resources in the area, including water and air quality.
- 166-18) The final plan impact analysis directs formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (as amended) be initiated to develop mitigation of possible impact to federally listed species.

P.O. BA 1435 Buhan CA Tuchael Ferguson 93515 area Manager 1/17/91 BLM 787 N. Maca St. Swite F Bushop CA 93515 Tipe Firguson, The solivering are my observations on the Bucher RATPARLEIS 167-1 First of all Ofound the area manager's gindelines of interest. A 2 l'egetative goals for wildlife habital, naturaled protection and reparian conditions generally will Il girla strong consideration in relationship to livestock. Longe needs. muditional. or permettees desired practices will be moentained provided regetative goals I don't think "generally can be met. is good inough. He regetative grale, ildlofe habitat and watershed protection re dure meats need to be the New tradition. The plimittee shouldn't have any priority

Livestick, are exactly that and they can the somewhere the at their owners expense and profit. The american public to the Hardlord and diserver Wellie attinandship of it's lands the the concept that it.

and wildlife.

should subside the cattlepersons some nee. 1671 with public range land Continuing in the quidelines scenarios,

"generally" in again mentioned in #3 and #8. The use of this advert removes any strong protection being considered and Snottes exceptions. Concerning reparisn grear - "to the extent quetical," practical to whom? who is defining what? when you discuss inanimate situations situations such as (powerline, the language, of intent is strong and definitive. Helitat and wildlife deserve bare and protee-

tion in "must" terms also. It is frustrating to read of MFP's and CRM's I haten't read and considered. I know I can obtain these and plad them but at this time include them in thoughts of accumulative imposed. The one I'm Shoot familiar with is the Just Stough ACEC/MP and I hope it's

plan is implemented. none of the transmission line atterna Tirls are secceptable. The Law Vegas! corridor is established and should be the strious, appropriate choice. The wildlife impact there will be grandrily humans Author values in that dea, wend long ayo alrogated.

I was pleased to read "if resource condition obsectives established in the 167-3 RMP are not being met, changes in lirestack grazing practices will be made as selessary to achieve those objectives over a reasonable gered of tinte " I don't think any range is in good or excellent condition or likely to be no in the near or not so near future. Why not acknowledge that objectives wient met [now and thes area can't support livestock and taxgazero shouldant have to rehabilitate land impacted by livestock.

The establishment of piking tracks inth interpretine englaces (in Bustle Cone Pine trails) would be a sporting addition another positive collispation to understanding of our unique area usuld be public lectures (slide, video etc.) offered by our local BLM experts as well as many other in the BLM 'septime. I'm thinking of scheduled rightar winto such as the Forest service offers at the Manmouth Ranger Station. The soldblack ment of a nature center

usued be best lift to a non governmen tal body and should not have any Unkage to any utility.

167-4

Moderal Policy: Sec. 10 2 (a) (5)

"Minapporpriate" 12 inserted in Stationart
of management "Providing spool for dimestic Unimals "L47 Sleep so no proving shootage (med) for this product is meat. I see no-need for the public to undirurite it. alternatives I prefer # 3 although I was hore some correins, well some expects. I object to culting of leve pringer pene. Walso think the r. 5. should discontinue (Acts of think the F. S. skend the continue encouraging word Surning stress by officing free wood gathering levey (Jew) (I was any increased protestion of the Invertine area as well as all petriglyph setts.

I affirm alternative via proposed as a guiden of Manganar land although to was with the inpression it was a be acquired as a Tational Monument. 167-7 Sylve Colton

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 167 (Sylvia Colton)

167-1) The word "generally" has been removed from Area Manager's Guideline #2 (#5 in the final plan). The word has been retained in AMG concerning mule deer winter range and sage grouse habitat. Please refer to response 154-10 which provides a brief statement on the intent of the RMP.

The AMG for riparian areas has been reworded in the final plan. Please refer to AMG #6,

Concarning your comment regarding use of the word "must" for wildfille habitat, please refer, again, to response 154-10 and carefully compare the changes in Alternative 4 decisions in the final plan. Also, note the additional standard operating procedures for riparian/wethand and soli/water.

- 167-2) The corridor decision has been changed; please see Chapter 2 (p.2-47) for the revised decision and rationale. Also see the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 167-3) Please see the "Grazing" general response (p.5-11).
- 167-4) We are currently developing environmental education materials with Inyo County to be used in classroom settings. Our staff is available for public presentations, field trips and classroom lectures. As our environmental education program evolves, we will incorporate all sectors of the community since an effective program necessitates that all citizens support environmentally sound actions.
- 167-5,6) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.
- 167-7) See response 29-1.



January 24, 1990

SENT BY FAX

Michael Perguson Bishop Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main Street, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Draft Bishop Resource Management Plan/EIS

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

American Rivers, formerly named the American Rivers Conservation Council, is a national, public interest not-for-profit corporation with more than 14,000 members nationwide. American Rivers is the only national conservation organization dedicated exclusively to the preservation of free-flowing rivers. In its seventeen-year history, American Rivers has worked intensively to protect rivers under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers and and has actively assisted states and local groups with

American Rivers has worked extensively with the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") since 1987 in its planning efforts for the river resources on the public lands. American Rivers has assisted the planning staff in Washington to clarify administrative direction for consideration of potential wild and scenic rivers in BLM's resource management planning, and has reviewed and commented on numerous BLM plans. American Rivers has filed four Protests of Resource Management Plans. Each Protest alleged, inter alia, that the individual RMP failed to comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and explicit agency administrative requiring that BLM study potential wild and scenic rivers and provide interim management prescriptions for those rivers found eligible. The Director agreed that the subject RMPs failed to comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and on June 4, 1990 advised the affected State Directors that additional planning was required to comply with established requirements.

American Rivers members live near, use and benefit from the resources of the Bishop Resource Area ("BRA"), including its rivers and associated landscapes.

801 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., SE SUITE 803 WASHINGTON, DC 20003 DDIS 547-6909 Mr. Michael Ferguson January 24, 1991 Page 2

GENERAL COMMENTS

168-1

Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. section 1271 et seg., requires all federal agencies to consider potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources. 16 U.S.C. section 1276(d). The planning responsibility imposed by section 5(d) plainly requires the BLM to assess the values of potential wild and scenic Rivers during the planning transport of th

To provide further guidance for fulfilling RLM's planning responsibilities for potential wild and scenic rivers, the agency's Mashington office on July 23, 1937 circulated Instruction Mesorandum No. 87-615, containing fast guidelines for identifying, evaluating, and protecting potential wild and scenic Director in final form in Instruction Mesorandum No. 87-670 and the attached Guidelines for Fuffilling Requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (the "Guidelines"), issued September 8, 1988 and renewed annually. In addition, the Director included a Wild and renewed annually. In addition, the Director included a Wild and renewed annually. The Condition of the

Under the directions established in the Guidelines, planning for potential wild and scenic rivers on BLM lands follows a relatively straightforward, three-step procedure. Each BLM resource management plan is to:

- (1) evaluate the <u>sligibility</u> of potential wild and sconic rivers within its planning area for inclusion in the Mational Wild and Scenic Rivers System in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (i.e., whether the river is freereservable, "values!" one or more "outstandingle" preservable" values!
- (2) determine the appropriate <u>classification</u> ("wild," "scenic," or "recreational") for rivers found to be eligible;
- (3) assess the <u>suitability</u> of such rivers for inclusion in the national rivers system, based upon the public values and uses that would be enhanced or foreclosed by

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 24, 1991 Page 3

168-1 cont. such protection, the degree of public, state and local interest in designation, and practical concerns regarding costs and feasibility of administration.

Guidelines, Section VIII, at 9-12.

until a final decision is reached by the agency and, for recommended rivers, by Congress, BIM is to protect river resource values and characteristics through specific management prescriptions established in specific or programmatic interim management plans. Guidelines, Section IV.C., at p. 7; Section IX, at p. 20.

I. Comments Concerning Eligibility

168-2

American Rivers commends the planning team for its attention to eligibility determination. A large number of streams possessing outstandingly remarkable values are identified in the

Planning teams sometimes ignore, or meraly give cursory acknowledgment to, the fact that ecological values may quality a river for inclusion in the national rivers system. Seg U.S. repartments of interior and Agriculture, National Full and Senic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility. Could be senior of the second of the second second could be senior to the specific values listed in Section 1(b) of the Act, other similar values, such as ecological, if outstandingly remarkable, can justify inclusion of a river in the national rivers system."). The planners attention to the vide-range of resource values, could be senior to the vide-range of resource values, that would qualify a stream for villa and scenic designation is particularly impressive.

We particularly support the determination that Pish Slough is an eligible river. Compress provided an expansive definition of "river" in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. See 16 U.S.C. S1286(a) ("Niver" seems a flowing body of vator or estuary or a section, portice, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes."). The wild and scenic rivers system encompasses a wide range of rivers and streams, from Alaska's wast Fortymile River system to Cumislana's Saline Bayou River to New Humpahire's Wildcat Brook to California's Smith River. Identification of Fish Slough as challenged to the California's Smith River. Identification of Fish Slough as challenged to the California's Smith River.

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 24, 1991 Page 4

II. Classification

168-3

American Rivers urges the planners to critically assess the detarmination that many rivers, such as Dog Creek, Rich Creek, Flah Slough, are properly classified as recreational. Our experience indicates that amy streams identified as recreational sometimes quality for a scent classification. See Interesting the control of the control o

III. Suitability

The RMP is silent as to a schedule of suitability studies. Applicable guidance strongly recommends that suitability studies be completed in the RMP.

IV. Interim Management Guidelines

168-5

168-4

In order to protect the resource values and character of its potential wild and scenic rivers until a decision is reached regarding their designation, BLM's Guidelines require agency planners to establish detailed management prescribions. The Guidelines state: "... the RMP must prescribe the protection (Interia management prescriptions) to be provided to the control of the provided of the provid

American Rivers commends the planning team for developing one of the finest set of interim management prescriptions contained in any RMP.

The prescriptions should be modified, however, to comply with the Director's Guidelines which require protection of "time resource values and characteristics of candidate river segments and study areas until studies have been completed and compresents and the studies of the segments of the complete of the segments of

Mr. Michael Ferguson January 24, 1991 Page 5

V. Conclusion

Please do not hesitate to communicate with us if you have any questions concerning any of the matters set forth above. We look forward to working with the Bishop Resource Area planning team throughout the RMP process.

Sincerely.

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. Public Lands Counsel

original sent by mail

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 168 (American Rivers)

- 168-1) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.
- 168-2) Thank you for your comments. Please note that Mill Creek has been reevaluated in the final RMP and determined eligible for study, classified as wild.
- 168-3) We consider the classifications to be potential designations based on our knowledge of the field situation. We have reassessed the creeks and have modified the final RMP so that both Hot Creek and Rock Creek are reclassified as scenic. During the upcoming studies, we will reevaluate the classifications based on more complete field information and make chances accordinoly.
- 168-4,5) Please see response 152-1, third and last paragraphs.

STEPPÉEN D. WASKUL 12293 Arbor Phill Street Moorpark, CA 93021 (805) 523-1457

January 11, 1991

Mr. Mike Ferguson Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N Main Street Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mike:

I am writing to you in regard to land I own which is located in the Grantie Mountain management area. This property, which comprises approximately 3/50 acres including Cedar Hill, is bordered on all sides by either BLM or USFS lands. I have recently received several queries from development companies regarding purchasing the land. After giving careful consideration to the eventual disposition of the property and potential use theretare, however, I feel that this land should be held in public ownership for the following reasons:

- 1.) The quality of recreational opportunities on the land is excellent and diverse. Currently there are OHV trails winding through the lower, flatter portions of the property which appear to be frequently utilized. As one moves up in elevation the vegetation increases in both diversity and beauty. The higher portions offer opportunities for hiking as well as camping.
- 2.) Views from the property are magnificent! As you can see in the pictures I have included, there are panoramic views of not only Mono Lake and the Scenic Basin, but of other BLM lands as well.
- Due to its proximity to U.S. Highway 167 and its elevation, the property can be seen prominently by anyone driving by.
- 4.) There is significant wildlife traveling through and living on the property. On a recent visit, I noted numerous and varied tracks throughout the property.

 The property is contiguous to other BLM properties and its acquisition would consolidate currently owned parcels in the Cedar Hills area. 6.) While the development companies interested in the property have not discussed their intentions for the disposition of the land, it seems a terrible waste to significantly alter the current natural state of the property.

169-1

cont

I briefly discussed my property with Dave Lehmann and he indicated that you were currently developing a resource management plan for the area in which you have identified 18,000 acres for potential acquisition. If there is any way that my property could be included in your acquisitions, I feel that the publics' interests would be well served.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if I may be of any assistance in your review of the property and this request.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Waln

Stephen D. Waskul

169-1

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 169 (Stephen D. Waskul)

169-1) Your proposed acquisition is in conformance with the final plan because it would protect scenery in the Mono Basin.

January 15, 1991

Mr. Michael Perguson BLM Area Manager Bishop Resource Area 787 W. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

Enclosed are comments in response to the Draft Rishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. These comments are from a private citizent's viewpoint, and in no way represent those of my employer, the University of California. Specific comments are listed by page number; general comments on the overall plan follow.

Specific Conments on the Plan:

p. 57, left column "The local economy would benefit more from increased tourism than by short-term consumptive uses of timber and other natural recourses." (Columille Mu)

This is a speculative statement besides which it totally disregards whether local residents really WANT increased tourism in their backyards!

n. 66 left column "construct the following mountain bike/foot/horse trails..."

I question the safety of combining horse and mountain bike trails.
While the mountain hime people assure me that it is not a grobles, I have had MONISONS reports and horror stories from horse people regarding accident the to the sharing of trails. Even the most docals of horses can become spaced and unment a rider if startled suddenly.

p. 72 left column, regarding providing for recreational uses in Long Valley.

According to your maps ("land Status"), a significant portion of the long Valley Ra ajous private land holdings (underlind MADDP properties). Past provisions does lind expect to make to assist private landholders in the area requesting the second supplies of the landholders in the area requesting the whether the ecocytems can stand the increased pressures of recommendation users and set any limits on the amount of this use? Sow will increased recreation affect the sageheas in the area, which you are making a large effort to inprove habitat for

p. 200-201 "Impact on Livestock Grazing"

This section needs to be rewritten as it is extremely speculative in atture. This, as well as sweered other places in the braft Plan that discuss livestock grazing are desoralizing and outright insulting to area livestock producers, and portray only negative impacts. Such negativies is hardly complimentary or beneficial to your agency, which is SUPPOSED TO BE committed to working with the livestock industry to usustain resources related to livestock production. From the number of times the Draft Plan blames livestock grazing for resource damage, it would appear that either there are gross deficiencies in the namequeent strategy, OR that SUM personnel are failing to an about with area ranchers to inplement better namaqueent (which

General Comments on the Plan:

170-4

170-5

170-6

Regarding land acquisitions: I understand from a previous discussion that your appears has included all potential lands acquisitions of interest in order to prevent plan mendment needs. Nevertheless, in two counties where so nuch land is held by the federal government, as well as other state and local agencies, I question the need to acquire more lands, UNESS such acquisitions are accompanied by an equivalent land singular MINIMENT to affected county, the such properties of the such properties of the such protection of resource values, your proposals for increased tourism and recreation may in the long rum be more detrimental to these areas, than private conversible in concert with sound land steardship policies. BLM and topowrnment agencies apend too nuch time acquiring land and too little time being a good analyshor and fostering positive lands stearding relationships on

Reparding increased touriss and recreational opportunities: While I would commend an effort to prepare for natural growth and improvements in control of recreational use of these areas, should the BMN be encouraging or making the assumption that increased tourism is better for local economies [b. 1] and the state of the periods of the economy which provide local economies and the state of the periods of the economy which provide local economies at althitty must be stated to the economy which are the types of john available (sajority are tick of powerment agencies, or are low-paying, service industry positions related to fourism). Compiled with that are high prices and inadequate housing for the comment deamed in the area. What does this do to the quality of life for local develors? Many local her accordant to the comment deamed in the area.

These are my comments on the Draft Plan.

Sincerely, (Sill Silve Rough) (Sill Silve Rough R. Gildersleeve, Ph.D. Prayate Citizen RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 170 (Rhonda R. Gildersleeve)

170-1) This statement has been deleted in the final RMP.

170-2) Please see response 79-7.

170-3) Access limitations, coordination with private landholders, and any recreation use limits would be considered in the activity plan process which falls outside the scope of this RMP. Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-5).

It is expected that due to overriding RMP prescriptions, impacts to sage grouse areas would be minimal.

170-4) Please see the revised "Grazing" section of Chapter 4.

The majority of livestock impacts cited in the draft RMP occur in springs, streams, aspen groves, sensitive species habitat, and meadows. Within the last seven years, 7 CRMPs have been developed for the Bodie Hills with the main goal of improving these key resources and wildlife habitat. Although some progress has been made, the RMP's direction is further improvement in quantity and quality of these areas.

170-5) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

170-6) Please see response 37-1.

January 14, 1991

JAN 18 1991

171-6

171-7

Michael Ferguson Bishop Resource Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson, .

171-2

171-3

I am writing in response to your request for comment on the farf Resource Management Plan. Generally speaking, I support Alternative 3 with several changes. My main concern is that the public land around Bodie State Historic Park be removed from aineral entry. After touring several operating gold mining sites in Mineral County, Nevade with a citizens' group organized by Mono County, I am convinced that mining cannot take place on the Galactic claim without severe imacts to the Park and methylboring public lands. I feel very strongly that no public lands should be committed to mining near Bodie, and perhaps, in all of the

I am also very concerned about the impacts of overgrazing on BLM land. I have seen a substantial resource damage on BLM lands in the Bodie Hills, Mono Basin, and Glass Mountain area. I am particularly concerned about the impacts of overgrazing on vilidities such as promptorn and sage grouse. Both of these species need more feed if they are ever to resettle the Mono Basin. Currently, the sheep "sine" so such of the public and private land that the only wildle and overgrazing should not be the enlier range of the public and control of the public and the state of the state

All MSA's should be given the same protection as a designated vilderness until such them as Congress acts on the BBM's recommendations. I believe all MSA's should continue to be roadless, even if not designated by Congress because there is so little land left roadless in our region—we need all of 1— for recreation, vildilg and the protection of existing natural and

Off road vehicles should be prohibed from all WSA's, ACEC's, and all sensitive areas. Vehicle users should not just be asked to stay on existing roads, it should be Illegal to leave a road except in the "sacrifice" areas designated for that kind of off road use.

I was pleased to read that several rivers were found to be eligible for Wild and Scenic status and support this designation for the length of these streams, including private land.

Please eliminate all utility corridor plans from BLM land. After seeing what they did to get the utility lines through the

Covtrack/Adobe Hills area, I was appalled. I realize that the route they used represented a compromise to help protect other scenic resources but I was amazed at the impact such corridors have none the less.

I also support the BLM acquiring private lands in order to preserve critical habitat but hope that you will also have the funds to protect these lands once acquired.

I wish to thank the RLM for supporting the reintroduction of promphorn to the Bodie Hills and hope that the agency will do all it can to assure that animal's continued survival and spread in Mono and Inyo counties. I hope actions have been or will be taken to preserve sage grouss lekking grounds from overgraing and vehicular damage throughout the region. Wildlife babitat may be afraid to close of the second of the seco

I also support the wishes of the people of Mono City to have some BLM land set aside adjacent to the settlement for use as a park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Management Plan. Good luck with preparation of the final document.

Sincerely,

Lauren Dairs

Lauren Davis P.O. Box 365 Lee Vining, CA 93541

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 171 (Lauren Davis)

- 171-1) Please see general Bodie response (p.5-5), which addresses these concerns.
- 171-2) Historic evidence indicates that pronghorn, especially, occupied the Mono Basin in substantially greater number than present. Final plan decisions, either area-wide or for Granite Mountain management area, are directed at habitat improvement for sage grouse and pronghom (e.g. DPC for sagebrust/bitterbrush within 2 miles of leks). Support needs for the Granite Mountain management area should also address your concern.

The intent of this RMP is to establish resource condition objectives for those vegetation communities which have the highest potential for improvement through changes in land use management.

- 171-3) Please see Chapter 1, Wilderness Recommendations, of the final RMP for further information on the wilderness review process.
- Please see general response to comments on OHV management (p.5-8).
- 171-5) Please see response 69-7.
- 171-6) The transmission line corridor decision has been changed. No east-west corridor is designated. However, if a project is proposed for Soldier Canyon, it will be considered. See Chapter 2 (p.2-47) and the general response for the corridor study (p.5-16).
- 171-7) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).

11465 Venice Boulevard, #7 Los Angeles, California 90066 213/391-2723

January 13, 1991

Mr. Michael Ferguson, Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 North Main Street, Suite P Bishop, California 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

172-1
Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for my review. I applied and appreciate the Bureau's efforts to my review. I applied and appreciate the Bureau's efforts to Management Area. I spring the Property of the State Hills Management Area. I spring the Property of the Bureau's efforts to Management Area. I spring the Property of the Resource on the Property of the Resource of the State Workshop of the Resource of the

In my view, Bodie is one of eastern California's major resources, and I believe that preservation of the town and its historical integrity within its setting should be the Bureau's top priority for this Management Area. Specifically, I would request that the Preferred Alternative be expanded to include:

- The more aggressive land acquisition program described in Alternative 3;
- 172-3 b The more aggressive habitat and watershed enhancement program described in Alternative 3; The more aggressive ACEC designation described in
- Alternative 3;
 Alternative 3;
 And, most important, a total mineral withdraw, not just from Bodie Bowl as described in Alternative
- 3, but from the entire management area.

 More generally, 1 would like to see preservation of

Bodie and the area's other cultural resources formally included as one of the Bureau's and the Plan primary stated goals.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review the Plan and comment on your department's hard work. I hope that, as the Plan is finalized, appropriate and effective means for proserving Bodie are embraced.

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 172 (Coral Suter)

- 172-1) Please see general Bodie response (p.5-5), which addresses these concerns.
- 172-2) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9).
- 172-3) Your comment has been considered.
- 172-4) Please see response 100-36.
- 172-5) The final RMP includes a proposed mineral withdrawal within the Bodie Bowl. See Chapter 2 (p.2-22) and the general Bodie response (p.5-5). Also see the general minerals response (p.5-13), which addresses the issue of withdrawals.
- 172-6) The management theme for the Bodie Hills Management Area (page 64, draft RMP) says that the goal is to protect historical values. Also note General Policy 12 on p.26 of the draft.

January 12, 1991

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St., Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

To the BLM.

173-1

I Unfortunately I was unable to review the entire Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement but I wish to comment on how the plan affects the Bodie Historic Mining District (including Bodie State Park) and the surrounding area. Alternatives 3 and 4 in the plan come closest to supporting my philosophy on how the area should be managed. I wish to strongly encourage the Bureau to withdraw all of its lands ajacent to Bodie State Park from mineral exploration or development. Any development that could be seen or heard from the Bodie bowl or would in any way affect the integrity of the historic mining district would be strongly opposed by me.

I also wish to oppose any disposal of lands surrounding Mono City for development. 173-2 I wish to see any increased development in the Mono Basin to occur in and adjacent to Lee Vining, if anywhere. Further developing satellite developments in the Mono Basin will detract from its outstanding scenic qualities.

I hope you will consider the above comments when constructing your final management alternative.

Sincerely.

David Marshart

Dave Marguart P.O. Box 274 Lee Vining, CA 93541

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 173 (David Marquart)

173-1) See general Bodie response (p.5-5).

173-2) See general response for acquisitions and disposals (p.5-9),

JAN 18 199

January 10, 1991

Bob Ellis 3106 Carlsen St. Oakland, CA 94602

Area Manager Bureau of Land Management 787 N. Main St, Suite P Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Ferguson

I have read the Bishop Resource Management Plan and I want to go on record as FAVORABLE TO THE NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT ALTERNATIVE.

As a long-time hiker and out-door enthusiast in the Eastern Sierra area, I'd like my voice be heard especially in regard to the following:

174-1 → YES TO NATURAL DESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF THE SOUTH INYO MANAGEMENT ALE A ISTRONOLY SUPPORT MINERAL LOCATION WITHDIAWAL IN THE SOUTH MOY NON-SUTFABLE? Which is ease the Brittleone ACRC stablished an end of the policy of the South layor in a wilderness state. I have hided the Promother progressive Trass-Keynol Peda area and its combination of historie mining trains discreting single pristleone community make it a special place worth all-out protection. However, the progressive of the high-orns.

The plan makes note of the use of the Eastern Sierra by those seeking a natural experience. That includes me several times a year. I and others like me do not come to the area to see goothermal plants, power corridors, over-grazed land, or evoded ORV sears. The view is important, and a view that is managed to enhance near-native plant and wildlife communities is the most attractive to me.

174-2. WHERE ARE THE PRONGHORNS? LETS THEM BACK TOO!

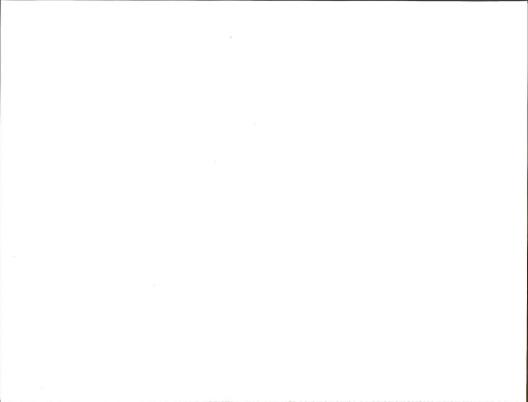
THANKS FOR LISTENING. HOLD FAST TO THE NATURAL ALTERNATIVE!

NO NO NO ON THE EAST-WEST POWER CORRIDOR!!!

Yours truly,
Rose Ale

RESPONSE TO COMMENT LETTER 174 (Bob Ellis)

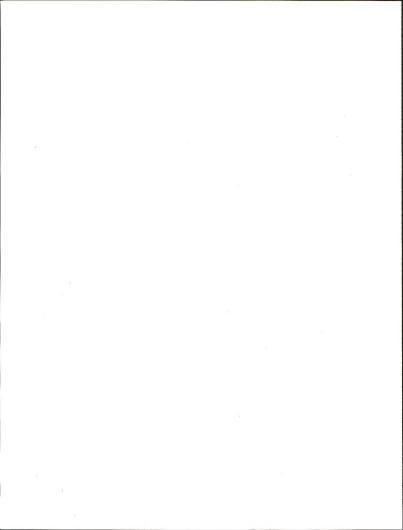
- 174-1) Thank you for your comments. They have been noted and considered.
- 174-2) Pronghom currently use three general locations within the Bishop resource area: the Bodie Hills, Beriton Valley-Adobe Valley, and Hammil Valley-Volcanic Tableland-Long Valley. The CDF&G and the Bureau have cooperated on three separate introductions of pronghom since 1982 in southeastern Monoo County. Those introductions have apparently been successful in establishing pronghom in the Benton and Hammil Valley areas.



Appendix



Rancheria Gulch.



Appendix 7 List of Comment Letters Represented by Letters Reprinted in Chapter 5

LETTER 1 - LETTERS SUPPORTING WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
1-43	Linda Aal	Santa Clara	
1-20	Jean Anderson	Santa Rosa	
1-74	Virginia Angstadt	Whittier	
1-14	Scott Armstrong		
1-55	Nancy Atkinson	Moreno Valley	
1-40	Anne-Marie Babber	Sonoma	
1-9	Catherine Batsford	San Leandro	
1-53	Bruce Berkowitz	Sonoma	
1-46	M. A. Bil	Salem, OR	
1-60	Mark & Cindy Bluethman	Alta Loma	
1-64	John Boesel	Berkeley	
1-71	Ann Bourguignon	Berkeley	
1-1	Richard Boylan	Sacramento	
1-50	Delored J. Braden	Torrance	
1-76	Evert Broderick	Reno, NV	
1-77	Jan Brougher	San Francisco	
1-11	Stephen Brown	Berkeley	
1-48	Sherrie Brubaker	Sacramento	
1-47	Charles Brunfield	Mill Valley	
1-80	William W. Buchman	Los Angeles	
1-32	Juan Byron	Redwood City	
1-39	Donna Case	Belmont	
1-2	Eloise Chamberlin	Bakersfield	
1-83	George Chapman	Van Nuys	
1-72	Elinor Cichrane	Porterville	
1-5	Rich Cimino	Pleasanton	
1-22	Stacie Clary	10000111011	
1-62	T. M. Cunnington	Oakland	
1-67	Suzanne Dods	Larkspur	
1-42	Constantina Economou	Berkelev	
1-7	Gordan M. Ehrman	Greenbrae	
1-81	Sabrina Ellis	San Francisco	
1-31	The Marvin Family	Santa Rosa	
1-52	Cliff Feldman	Soquel	
1-33	Mike Fong	San Francisco	
1-34	Christine Fong	San Francisco	
1-57	Suzanna Forest	Sebastopol	
1-54	Michael Germain	Woodland	
1-23	Daureen Groper	San Anselmo	
1-30	Mary Hazelwood	Mill Valley	
1-82	John Helin	Santa Barbara	
1-61	Daniel Hirsch	San Leandro	

LETTER 1 - LETTERS SUPPORTING WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (continued)

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
1-73	H. C. Jarjeank	Twin Peaks	
1-28	Betty & David Johnson	Novato	
1-51	Sue Jorjorian	Sierra City	
1-24	Gary Kapler	San Francisco	
1-19	Lois Kiebeen	Palo Alto	
1-27	Carole Kuoahata	San Jose	
1-45	Jessie Lawson	Belmont	
1-79	William Levine	San Rafael	
1-66	Geoffrey Marshall	Oakland	
1-37	Elliotte Mau	San Francisco	
1-49	Laurie McCann	Sacramento	
1-75	John R. Y. Millar	Orinda	
1-68	Dan H. Millis	Westlake Village	
1-17	Maureen Mitchell-Wise	Berkeley	
1-6	Osmond Molarsky	Ross	
1-3	E. J. Nervik	Sacramento	
1-21	Adrienne Pauly	San Francisco	
1-10	Gerry M. Reece	Sacramento	
1-41	Elaine Rhinehart	Piedmont	
1-4	Betty Rosin	Bishop	
1-65	Dinah Russell	Berkeley	
1-35	Dr. David L. Schneider	Berkeley	
1-63	Marty Sochet	Lafavette	
1-12	Amy Solso	Redding	
1-13	J. M. Stallard	Ridgecrest	
1-38	Barbara Stevens	Daly City	
1-59	Richard Terra	Oakland	
1-29	Annette Thompson	Oakland	
1-78	Philip Tymon	Sebastopol	
1-36	Samuel Valdez	San Francisco	
1-15	Darrelle Vecchie	Lafavette	
1-56	Deborah Venzi	Richmond	
1-70	Catherine Walling	THOTHIOTIC	
1-26	Mark Watt	Berkeley	
1-58	Sarah White	Penn Valley	
1-18	John Williams	Concord	
1-8	Donald Williams	San Francisco	
1-16	Ruth Wilson	San Francisco	
1-69	Joann Winker	Sacramento	
1-09	Paul Wuef	Petaluma	
1-25	Dorothy Zinky	Los Altos	

LETTER 28 - LETTERS GENERATED BY A "DESERT SURVIVORS" FLYER

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
28-7	Robert Armstrong	Oakland	
28-3	Eckhart Beatty	San Francisco	
28-12	Fred Beddall	Oakland	
28-18	Alan Carlton	Piedmont	

LETTER 28 - LETTERS GENERATED BY A "DESERT SURVIVORS" FLYER (continued)

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
28-20	Bob DeNike	Pittsburg	
28-15	T. A. Dungan	Berkeley	
28-17	Robert Euangeuith	Grass Valley	
28-22	Rochelle Gerratt	El Cerrito	
28-9	Martha Gilchrist	Lone Pine	
28-16	Dr. & Mrs. John Graham	Hillborough	
28-23	Teresa Ann Gula	Martinez	
28-13	George & Glenna Houle	Stanford	
28-21	Lillian Kocher	San Rafael	
28-4	Peter Metropulos	Belmont	
28-24	Carolyn M. Owen	Lone Pine	
28-5	Stan Peterson	Wawona	
28-1	William Ruhland	Orinda	
28-6	Nancy Sheehan	San Francisco	
28-19	James E. Simmons	Martinez	
28-8	Mary Kate Spencer	Menlo Park	
28-10	Steven Thaw	Morago	
28-2	D. Tomer	Ludlow	
28-14	Judy Wickman	Independence	
28-11	Linda Wills	San Jose	

LETTER 30 - LETTERS EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR BODIE

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
30-36	Jadelle Aas	Lee Vining	
30-245	Gayle Alexander	San Francisco	
30-119	Huxy Allen	Boulder Creek	
30-40	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Allen	Sparks, NV	
30-177	Jo Ann Alsup	Placerville	
30-240	M. Jean Anderson	Pollock Pines	
30-39	Kathleen Anderson	Pasadena	
30-139	Stephen Anderson	South Gate	
30-209	J. M. Anglin	Sacramento	
30-268	Gene & Joann Angvicks	Livermore	
30-157	Marie-Louise Ardini	Pleasant Hill	
30-133	Helen Ashford	Culver City	
30-241	Briam Auld	Oakland	
30-210	Pennie Austin-Wilson	Soulsbyville	
30-242	Frank Auten	Tahoe Paradise	
30-307	Marge Ayers	Jamul	
30-79	Don Bachman	Bozeman, MT	
30-30	Jean Badraun	Laguna Niguel	
30-206	Carl & Eugenia Bernthal	Indio	
30-7	Russell B. Bishop	Ventura	
30-250	Jeffrey D. Black	Berkeley	
30-217	Patricia Black	Nevada City	
30-311	Carie Bogner	Vallejo	
30-70	Mrs. Chestly Bonestell	Carmel	
30-199	Gerald & Orlou Bower	Plainfield, OH	

LETTER 30 - LETTERS EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR BODIE (continued)

Letter Number	Commentor	City
30-213	Ms. Beryl Breave	Meadow Vista
30-62	Mary Breunig	Berkeley
30-167	Windslow Briggs	Palo Alto
30-57	Mark Brittain	Long Beach
30-194	Stanley & Bernelda Brown	San Lorenzo
30-100	Dorothy Brown	Sacramento
30-201	Marilyn Brown	Portola Valley
30-29	Lloyd Brubaker	Ridgecrest
30-32	Wayne Brunkan	Ventura
30-74	Robert Burtness	Santa Barbara
30-315	Rex & Diane Butler	San Bruno
30-218		
	C. Buckmeyer	Simi Valley
30-310	Tom Camary	Mill Valley
30-105	Alexander & David Campbell	Jamal
30-186	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell	San Francisco
30-248	Steven B. Capps	Beaverton, OR
30-280	Jeane Carr	Placerville
30-238	William Carrick	Ontario
30-166	Jean Carroll	Carlsbad
30-251	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Casazza	Healdsburg
30-89	June Chambers	San Jose
30-263	Jeanne Clark	Alameda
30-236	Lois Clashen	Corte Madera
30-294	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Colby	Oak View
30-289	Carol Colip	Fallon, NV
30-111	Wayne Cone	Borrego Springs
30-85	E. Tyler Conrad	Buttonwillow
30-279	Anniee Cooper	Tarzana
30-84	Karen Cotter	North Hollywood
30-300	Dr. Amy Coury	Torrance
30-187	Dr. W. P. & Alice Cox	Santa Clara
30-140	Joshua Crain	Cedar Glen
30-77	Carolyn Crawford	Lee Vining
30-94	Catherine Culver	Sacramento
30-149	H. Lee Mc Cumber	San Diego
30-138	Bob Cumming	Garden Grove
30-22	Patty Cumming	Garden Grove
30-134	Deborah Curtis	Lodi
30-208	Bob & Chris Cuyler	Granada Hills
30-269	Arthur Najara, D.D.S.	Santa Barbara
30-209	Grace & Ed Danner	Santa Barbara
30-150		
30-253	Mrs. Judith Daponte Joan Davidson	Rancho Palos Verdes San Francisco
30-8	Don M. Deck	Lone Pine
30-5	Franf G. Delfino	Castro Valley
30-158	Dydia DeLyser	Los Angeles
30-83	Sara Denzler	Sacramento
30-297	N. Derham	Los Gatos
30-172	Susan DesBaillets	Lee Vining
30-197	Jane Dixon	Reno, NV
30-308	Mark Doehnert	Oakland
30-73	Nancy Donaldson	Jackson

Letter Number	Commentor	City
30-42	Gregort Doose	Mo Valley
30-234	John Eastman	Escondido
30-224	Doris Elliott	Bridgeport
30-87	Michael J. Ellis	Point Reyes Station
30-124	Brian Ellison	Crowley Lake
30-266	Ethel E. Elithor	Crowney Lance
30-15	Nancy Elsner	San Francisco
30-80	William Eubanks	Sacramento
30-265	Dorothy Ewall	Carlsbad
30-200	Glenn J. Farris, PhD	Sacramento
30-120	Thomas Faiereisen	Mountain View
30-45	Chuck Fell	Bridgeport
30-43	Harold Fell	Colfax
30-114	Willard Felsen	Benicia
30-114	Tom & Beatriz Ferguson	Pacific Palisades
30-127	R. Ferguson	Jamul
30-231	Kenneth R. Fetherston	Tahoma
	Mrs. Pat Finau	Punta Gorda, FL
30-125		
30-202	Kathryn Fleischman	Altadena South San Gabriel
30-193	N.C. Flores	
30-121	Ann E. Foose	Sun Valley
30-200	Thomas Ford	Livermore
30-239	Jane Foster	Oakland
30-24	Rayanne Francis	Dayton, NV
30-249	C. L. Franzel	Placerville
30-160	Bob Franzola	Sacramento
30-109	Mark Freitag	South El Monte
30-31	John Frost	Tracy
30-156	Paul Gainr	Los Angeles
30-277	Michael Gehman	Los Angeles
30-189	Victoria Gibson	Carmel
30-118	Roger Gilbert	Sacramento
30-309	Alan Glover	San Jose
30-169	Debra Golata	Berkeley
30-232	Anita Graham	San Pedro
30-237	Helen Grandall	Sacramento
30-222	Suzanne Gratt	Pollock Pines
30-221	Richard & Joan Greene	Saratoga
30-148	Sylvia Gregory	San Bruno
30-318	Barry & Sherry Grivett	San Jose
30-260	Russell Guiney	Lompoc
30-215	Mr. & Mrs. Chester Hancock	Sacramento
30-153	lone J. Harmon	Bridgeport
30-171	Treva Harrington	Rolling Hills Estates
30-2	Jon Harris	Berkeley
30-243	Hefterich Family	Lancaster
30-102	Walter Heil	Yerington, NV
30-123	Joe von Herrmann	Murpheys
30-168	Mrs. Jean Hessler	Taft
30-183	Susan Hester	San Francisco
30-286	Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Hill	Barstow
30-312	Lin H. Hines	Navato

Letter Number	Commentor	City
30-25	Judy Hollins	Ridgecrest
30-37	Susan Hopkins	Fullerton
30-92	Dennis W. Hornish	Los Angeles
30-68	Sallie & Mott Hudson	Los Angeles
30-44	Eugenia Hull	El Cerrito
30-20	Betsy Lee Isaacs	Whittier
30-146	Jackie	Sacramento
30-267	Joyce Jacobs	Yucaipa
30-195	Nancy Jancar	Mill Valley
30-174	Fredick Jee	Borrego Springs
30-129	Harold & Sis Jesse	Palos Verdes Estates
30-184	Kevin Joe	Elk
30-60	Marcia Johnson	Alhambra
30-258	Betty Jones	Rancho Palos Verdes
30-152	Pat & Herman Jones	Chicago Park
30-185	Kirke Jorgensen	Riverside
30-49	Donna Karolchik	Santa Cruz
30-233	Larry Kelly	San Diego
30-97	David Kent	Menlo Park
30-198	Roberta Kerwin	Oakview
30-291	Mr. & Mrs. Clement Keul	Ventura
30-291		Oakland
30-144	Phyllis Kincaid	Menio Park
	Walter Kloefloy	
30-17	Joan Knox	Kelseyville
30-10	Kevin Kormylo	Garden Valley
30-281	Pat Kovac	San Leandro
30-181	Michael Krasnobrod	Sacramento
30-38	Arthur & Sharon Kruse	Dublin
30-316	Jean L. Rosenfeld	Malibu
30-75	Mark Langner	Moss Landing
30-116	Steven Metz & Judith LaRosa	San Francisco
30-103	Ed LeBaker & Family	Cupertino
30-19	Misha Lee	Whittier
30-203	Bruce & Nancy Legnard	Volcano
30-90	Constance M. Lehman	Santa Fe Springs
30-229	Mrs. Robert Levison, Jr.	Atherton
30-285	Cecilia Lewis & Family	San Jose
30-164	Phil Lindsay	Pacifica
30-188	Martha Lipcombe-Anderson	Richmond, VA
30-95	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lyden	Folsom
30-270	D.G. Baxter, M.D.	Los Angeles
30-244	Robert C. Lukesh, M.D.	Orinda
30-314	Albert M. Pariani	Novato
30-264	Mary Macey	San Rafael
30-141	Robert Macomber	Tahoma
30-1	Margaretta C. Maloney	Albuquerque, NM
30-211	Sharom Marovich	Sonora
30-306	Steve Marsh	Redwood City
30-225	Cindi Martinoni	Cameron Park
30-226	Elaine McAndrews	Oakland
30-271	Dean McCollom	Santa Cruz
	E. P. McElhany	Burlingame

Letter Number	Commentor	City
30-151	Wendy McEirath	Sebastopol
30-176	Richard & Karen McKee	Running Springs
30-117	Tim Messick	Davis
30-81	Enid Meyer	Oakland
30-86	John Miller	Palo Alto
30-110	Winifred Miller	Fallbrook
30-3	Jean Mills	Seattle, WA
30-317	Lois Mills	North Hollywood
30-178	Lynette Mizell	Sacramento
30-259	Margaret Morash	Sierra Madre
30-223	Brian Moreno	Whittier
30-122	Ron Morgan	Rancho Cordova
30-51	Tom Morgan	Mission Viejo
30-205	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Morley	San Diego
30-273	Paul Morse	Seal Beach
30-219	Richardson Morse	Los Angeles
30-192	Joann Moss	Roseville
30-196	Melinda & Richard Muraska	Alta Loma
30-132	David Myrick	Santa Barbara
30-162	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Nelson	San Diego
30-63	Robert Neuhaus	San Francisco
30-275	Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Newton	Livermore
30-313	Ruth Niswauder	Davis
30-299	Mr. & Mrs. David O'Kane	Friday Harbor, WA
30-301	Phyllis & Murray Olshan	Sepulveda
30-99	Ermil Osbourne	Citrus Heights
30-11	T. Owen	Sunnyvale
30-23	Mr. & Mrs. D Page	Garden Valley
30-278	Mrs. M Paladin	Tarzana
30-72	Leo Palmiter	Sacramento
30-115	Betty A. Paris	Lincoln
30-108	Diana Petersen	San Jose
30-216	Mitch Peterson	San Francisco
30-55	Dianna Piersall	Santa Cruz
30-112	Rosemary & Jeff Pietrowsky	Lake Havasu, AZ
30-78	M. Pisio	
30-96	Richard Pisio	Dublin
30-214	Phyllis & Bob Pitts	San Jose
30-145	Larry Poag	Turlock
30-69	William Poole	San Francisco
30-120	Robert & Elizabeth Potts	Coarsegold
30-4	Bruno V. Pozzi	Woodland Hills
30-207	Bertha Pressburger	North Hollywood
30-46	Connie Price	Coloma
30-56	Sheryl Prien	Sacramento
30-159	Chip Bouril/Penny Proteau	Yountville
30-199	Leona Pupick	Bridgeport
30-190	Mike & Robin Rain	Fremont
30-33	Thomas Rak	Thousand Oaks
30-296	Jack Ramsdell	Carson City, NV
30-296	Cherrie Rasmusson	Januari Oliy, III
30-254	Ingrid Morales, CDA, RDA	Santa Barbara

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Letter Number	Commentor	City	
30-66	Maurice Read	Sacramento	
30-18	Midge Redden	Truckee	
30-256	Sandra Reeves	Auburn	
30-235	Margaret Richards	Los Angeles	
30-58	Debora Richey	Santa Ana	
30-34	Martha Rick	San Diego	
30-107	Carol Rierdan & Family	San Diego	
30-98	Kurt Rieser	Shadow Hills	
30-302	Robert Riley	Fullerton	
30-61	Jordan Rinker	Los Altos Hills	
30-282	Mrs. M. Rising	Ventura	
30-88	Walters Rivers	Larkspur	
30-67	Ms. Marion Robus	San Francisco	
30-41	Christy Rogers		
30-262	Chester N Roistacher	Palmdale	
30-261	Kenneth Rolf, Jr.	Riverside	
30-201		Yucaipa	
	Brent Rowett	Sacramento	
30-288	Clyde Rowley	Yerington, NV	
30-191	James Rush	Huntington Beach	
30-48	Marilyn Sachs	Watsonville	
30-128	Ronald Sachs	Mammoth Lakes	
30-76	Susan Salmon	Castro Valley	
30-147	Ilea Rose Sanchez	Baldwin Park	
30-137	Robert & Shirley Schmelzer	Mariposa	
30-257	Judy Schulman		
30-230	Pat Seely	Long Beach	
30-50	Debbie Semionyk	La Puente	
30-6	Schiermeyer Consulting Services	Fountain Valley	
30-182	Nancy Shacklett .	Murpheys	
30-163	D. H. Sherman	Ridgecrest	
30-161	Petition w/15 signatures	Sacramento Area	
30-305	Mr. & Mrs. Danny Sisemore	Ventura	
30-303	David Sisemore	Ventura	
30-304	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Sisemore	Ventura	
30-292	Mrs. Glen Sisemore	Olai	
30-293	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sisemore	Oak View	
30-12	Julia & George Sisler	Santa Rosa	
30-298	Marion Siu	Los Angeles	
30-154	John Slenter	San Jose	
30-91	Mrs. Alice Small	Lafavette	
30-247	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Smith	Las Vegas, NV	
30-283	Jeanne Soliday	Vallejo	
30-287	Susanne Sommer	Sacramento	
30-170	Wendy Sparks	Pleasant Hill	
30-93	Jane & Jarel Steckling	Gustine	
30-255	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Steinberg	Custine	
30-27	Paul Stelhavey	Gardnerville, NV	
30-53	Karen & Michael Stensgaard		
30-101	Raymond Stine	El Sobrante	
30-101	Russ Stockwell	Quincy	
30-59 30-228		El Cajon	
30-228 30-143	Walter Stone	Bishop	
00-140	George Strauss	Berkeley	

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Letter Number	Commentor	City	
30-136	Mary Sturm		
30-64	Ira Tainowitz	Concord	
30-130	Angela Thompson	El Dorado Hills	
30-155	Elaine Torres-Pisio	Dublin	
30-252	Helen Trammell	Brea	
30-135	Lawrence J. Udell	Hayward	
30-173	Judy Walker	Sacramento	
30-16	Donald Wallace	Los Angeles	
30-246	John & Jane Walstrom	Lakeside	
30-179	Given Walter	Camino	
30-204	Marilyn Walter	Portola Valley	
30-28	Edmund Wanner & Family	Westlake Village	
30-284	N. Warrey	Mariposa	
30-220	Gillian Waters	La Canada	
30-274	Brian Weed	Carmel	
30-142	Allen W. Welts	Sacramento	
30-54	Maureen West	Tarzana	
30-106	Howard Whitaker	Gold River	
30-175	Stan White	Cameron Park	
30-52	Nancy Whitmore	Mammoth Lakes	
30-65	Alexa Williams	Hollywood	
30-165	Nicholas Williams	Tonopah, NV	
30-82	Victoria Wilson	Huntington Beach	
30-272	Lou Winant	Berkeley	
30-295	Gordon Wing	Kensington	
30-212	Mrs. A. Winter	Vallejo	
30-13	Ellen Wood-Grijabra	Sierra Madre	
30-131	Dr. Edwin D. Woodhouse	San Diego	
30-35	William Woods	Monrovia	
30-104	Lucinda Woodward	Sacramento	
30-43	Greg Wranic	Long Beach	
30-26	Melinda Wright	San Pedro	
30-47	Marjorie Xavier	Hayward	

LETTER 41 - LETTERS ON THE MANNATT TRESSPASS

Letter Number	Commentor	City	
41-15	Jean E. Atwood	Independence	
41-7	Jack & Marilyn Bracken	Independence	
41-14	Joe Capello	Independence	
41-13	Ardyce H. Carter	Independence	
41-2	Donald & Loralee Cole	Independence	
41-16	Mike & Robin Conklin	Bishop	
41-8	Lew Crispin	Lone Pine	
41-9	John J. Ellis	Bishop	
41-4	Betty J. Fletcher	Independence	
41-11	James & Joann Jennings	Lee Vining	
41-1	Robert E. Mannatt	Independence	
41-12	Edmund S. Mather	Independence	

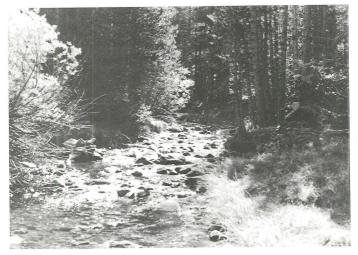
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Letter Number	Commentor	City	
41-5	Willard L. Mather	Independence	
41-6	Kevin McDonough	Independence	
41-3	Bessie Poole	Independence	
41-10	Stephen J. Yancey	Lee Vining	

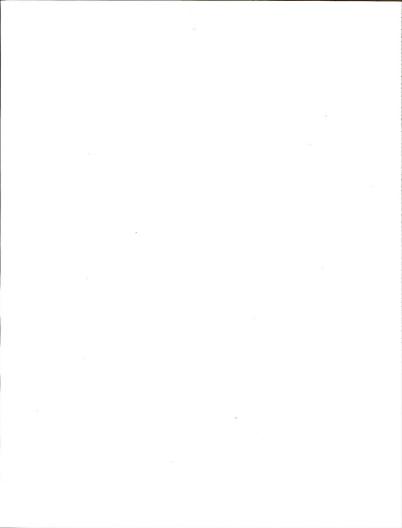
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Letter Number	Commentor	City	
32-12	Wayne Anderson		
132-24	E. N. Anderson	Riverside	
132-32	Lillian Bieber & Friends	Asheville, NC	
132-23	Florian Boyd	Palm Springs	
132-29	George Bridges	Sacramento	
132-1	Tom Camara	Mill Valley	
132-33	Ruth Dyer	Lafayette	
132-19	Melora Geyer	Davis	
132-2	E. Alexander Glover	Atherton	
132-9	Dave Harvey	Lake Isabella	
132-4	Tom Hedges	Berkeley	
132-14	Karyn Helfrich	Lee Vining	
132-5	Mary Ann Henry	Ridgecrest	
132-20	Thomas Leeman	Davis	
132-15	Elaine Light	Bridgeport	
132-31	Frances Martin	North Hollywood	
132-22	Terry Maul	Riverside	
132-17	Robert McLaughlin	Albany	
132-7	Kelly Moran	San Mateo	
132-16	Carolyn Mosher	Mill Valley	
132-10	Warren Mrinson	Springfield, MO	
132-34	Bob Randolph	Merced	
132-27	Marjorie Ryall	Sacramento	
132-3	Daniel & Mary Shaw	Petaluma	
132-25	Edward Sherman	Penngrove	
132-18	Dan Silver, M.D.	Los Angeles	
132-8	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Smith	Las Vegas, NV	
132-30	Ernestine Smith	Santa Rosa	
132-26	Donna Spotts	Sacramento	
132-13	Mary Lee Steffensen	Fairbanks, AK	
132-28	Georgette Theotig	Tehachapi	
132-6	John J. Ulloth	Sacramento	
132-11	Ms. Jean Vafeades	Porterville	
132-21	John Wullich	San Diego	

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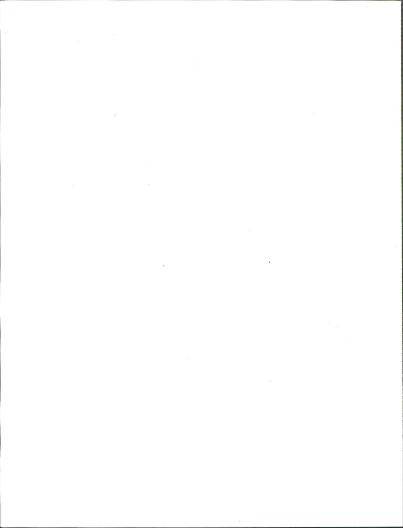
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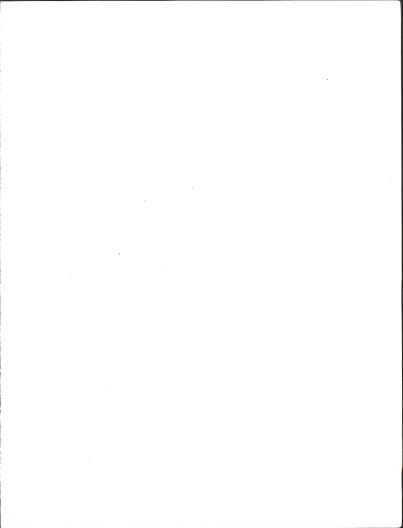
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